



Talking Carp

Magazine

Issue 82

December 2022

Merry
Christmas



Inside your Christmas edition
Scott Grant, Julian Cundiff, Joe Turnbull,
Dave Locke, Andy Murray and more

2023

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Hello and welcome to issue 82.

Winter has arrived. Oh yes it truly has. The days are short and the nights are long. The temperature is down in the single figures... but the fish are still there and still getting caught too ! we are seeing some amazing catch reports from around the country and from different companies across the social media platforms. But why is it that so many fish are still coming out? The extremely warm and mild conditions we have enjoyed over Summer and Autumn having a knock on effect? Or maybe the amount of anglers who are still on the banks, still fishing and still putting bait in regularly, keeping the fish feeding? Whatever it is, there seems to be no sign of it slowing down so keep those sessions going, and keep those catch reports rolling in. It's a great time to be an angler..... so fill your boots.

There is one thing you must be wary of though, and we recently shared Paul Bacons videos on our Facebook page... be very very careful with those stoves and heaters inside your bivvy... the carbon monoxide build can be quite dramatic and should you get yourself toasty warm and lie down in your bag with the door shut... it could lead to something fatal.

Always turn off stoves and heaters !

Always have the door open to let the bivvy breathe!

If in doubt, carry a carbon monoxide detector. They're actually quite cheap from stores such as Screwfix, or B and Q, and such places. And they could very well save your life. Be smart! Be safe!

And on a slightly lighter note to finish, we would like to thank you all for a wonderful year of Talking Carp, and wish each and everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Team Talking Carp

brian.dixon@talkingcarp.co.uk

mark@talkingcarp.co.uk

mark.galli@talkingcarp.co.uk

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Winter, what's that?



By Joe Turnbull



There is absolutely no doubt that the season of winter in the UK is not much like it used to be and by that, I mean that it certainly isn't seeming to last as long as it once did. However, with the warmer seasons lasting much longer into October and often, as we've seen this year into November, the carp have continued to feed for much longer periods. Couple this with the artillery we have these days in the form of mega warm clothing and bivvies, it amazes me that the banks are still fairly quiet. When it comes to cold water carp angling, something that always amazes me too is that the number of articles written about catching carp in the winter, yet people still seem don't seem to go. Well, here's my top tips for getting bites in the winter.

Weather Apps.

Let's start with the weather as that for me, is probably one of the most important parts of cold-water carp angling. First of all, weather apps are as accurate as they've ever been, but I never use or rely on just one. I always have at least 3 or 4 good apps running at the same time as by studying the weather like this you can get a very good picture of

what's coming. Now notice I said, "what's coming" and not "what the weather is doing on the day". The trick with how to use the weather apps correctly is to look ahead at the furthest reading so you can stay ahead of what's about to happen. If you keep in mind that we are forever trying to stay one step ahead of the carp, then you should try to look ahead at everything. After all, we tie rigs in advance, we make bait in advance, we go for walks around the lakes in advance so why not, with the technology we have, try to go when the weather



is the best. As an example, most of my fishing is done by checking the weather apps, choosing what day or days are looking like they are to be the best weather in a few days' time and planning my sessions around that. Often, in the winter I'll be looking in the apps for high pressure sunny days as these are most common and consistent during the months of December through till early March and some of April. Also, another thing to remember, is to check all the apps together and if they all say a similar thing by about two days up to the day, you're thinking about going, then the weather will usually stay as it says.

Wind Direction.

Throughout the majority of the year, being in the teeth of a wind is usually best as most carp will follow a wind no matter whether it's a strong one or a subtle one. There are a few reasons for this with the first one I like to think about which is the warmth that they bring. In the months of May through till around late September, the winds can be warm, and this means no matter what direction they may be coming from. If wind direction confuses you

then think of it like this. Any wind coming from the north is generally cold and any wind coming up from the south is generally warm. After around September the winds from the south become cold, no matter where they blow from. The winds from the north are always in general cold but through the months of late March through till roughly mid-September they can be warm. So, if you keep in mind that most winds are cold through the months,



I've just mentioned you'll soon get to see where the fish will be in those months. You will usually find carp out of a wind when its cold and that means where it's the flattest. You'll be surprised where you can find carp when the wind blows, and I've often found them right under my feet in deep margins. Contrary to popular belief, it's not that deep water is warm, in fact it's usually colder but it is very much out of the wind. So, target areas out the wind and you'll go far wrong. All of that said, carp being carp can change the rules whenever they choose so be alert.

Baiting up.

So, the banks are quieter which means less anglers and that means less bait. This means you can actually pre bait without someone jumping on your efforts. As I mentioned earlier, carp seem to feed for a lot longer over the course of the year so don't be afraid to use a bit of bait. Start by finding a likely looking area by looking for any signs of carp and that means even the slightest of bubbles or colouring of water. I'd start where the wind is mostly less prevalent consistently and introduce some bait over the

course of a few weeks at first. As the banks are quiet you can even do a bit of marker work as this will get the carp moving around so don't worry too much about disturbing them. Visiting your chosen venue, a couple of times a week will get them used to finding bait in that area but try your best not to fish it for as long as possible. If you fancy a winter campaign and you're aware that your venues angler count really drops off, then start





Winter, What's that

getting that bait in early. If I'm starting a winter campaign, I'll usually start baiting an area around October and keep it going up until I start to get results. Even after my first capture, I'll keep it going in, but I won't fish that spot too regular. If for example you have a fish off the baited area, then leave it for a week or two but keep the bait trickling in. What bait should you use? Well, I've had lots of success using light easily digestible baits like soaked boilies, crushed boilies, sweetcorn mush and ground baits laced with high attract liquid foods. The key to getting them feeding hard in winter is by making it look like you're giving them lots of food when in fact it's mainly attraction. I like to feed them nutritious feed stuff like crushed hemp, corn, boilie, worm and liquids but it'll always be blitzed in a blender first.

So, I hope there's plenty there to get you started.

As always you can find me on Insta, FB, Twitter and TikTok where I'd be happy to answer may questions you may have.

And on that note... I wish you all a very merry Christmas

And a Happy New Year.

Semi slack lines

JT



NAS Presents....

NORTHERN BOWLERS SHOW

25-26 FEB

2023

MANCHESTER

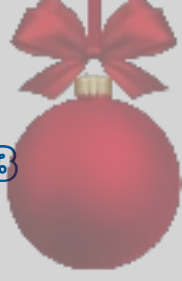


**BOWLERS
EXHIBITION
CENTRE**

arena

Talking Point

with Julian Cundiff



TALKING POINT...

Looking back over the past year

with Julian Cundiff & Brian Dixon

Bri : So here we are and it is the end of 2022, the year is over and it would be fair to say we have got back to some kind of “normality”. But we are not here to talk about that... lets take a look back at the fishing year. You have had a busy year again Jules, with the fishing, the gigs, dinner dates, a new NFL interest, your social media pages... it has been a non-stop year for you. So, let's start with the fishing ... and what has stood out for you in 2022?

Jules: **Hi mate and yes, another busy year in 2022. As people (who'd) retired always told me " You'll never be so busy ". Absolutely true but I'm only busy doing stuff I WANT to do not HAVING TO when I worked for HMCTS.... Not that I didn't adore my job but the flexibility of (well earnt) retirement is impossible to put a price on. I've always tried to be real and honest about my fishing in print and on social media so when you asked about what stood out most I kind of felt a bit uncomfortable answering it. But what the hell! The older I get the more that stands out to ME is my disconnect with so much of the modern ' scene '. I'm not gonna say what as you get accused of being a ' hater ' or being out of touch but a big percentage of what ' appears ' to be the norm is just not my bag at all. That does not make it wrong at all, far from it when no rules are being broken but is it my idea of carp fishing? Quite frankly no. Certainly the trophy shot seems all important and how you get there less so. I once described it to my pal Brian Skoyles that carp fishing is a bit like saying you are a supporter of a certain football team but simply only being interested**



in the results that pop up on screen. The team, the history, the behind the scenes stuff irrelevant. All that matters is three points. For me carp fishing is all that and the end result is just part of it. So, in all honesty Brian that's stood out for me most BUT thankfully I fish waters that meet my criteria.....and if they didn't that's my fault no one elses!

Bri: Your media pages have really taken off and we see you offering advice, hints and tips on a very regular basis, and always so well received too. Is this something you

hope to continue for as long as you can?

Jules : Cheers mate it's hard to believe that I started ' Julian Cundiff Angling ' on the 1st of October 2020 which is over twenty six months ago. From then till now I've posted almost 250 purely instructional posts never mind the catchup / preview posts I do on Saturdays and Sundays. I'd guess each post takes a minimum of sixty minutes to type / shoot and provide feedback on...and that's a minimum! 15,000 minutes and so far just under 200,000 words.....for free! Why do I do it? I guess it's my way of giving back and they say legacy is the impact you have not just what you've caught? Hopefully it's helped others as Andy, Rod, Kevin, KM did for me? From the start I decided to ONLY cover aspects of fishing I personally did and felt able to offer thorough advice on NOT to waffle about stuff I kind of know about but only at a limited level. It's FREE and ALWAYS will be free and with just under



11,000 members I think it's been well received. It's not a way for me to make money, satisfy a sponsor or add a competition side to it so I guess even the cynics / haters / trolls

surely can't find fault with that? Will it continue? As long as I have subjects that I feel are relevant, I'm more than competent in and are useful I'll keep on keeping on. Still to come in the very near future are solid bagging, winter particles and winter overnights. Simply go to Facebook, find Julian Cundiff Angling, add yourself and enjoy all 250 posts.

Bri : As always, your results do tend to speak for themselves, and you seem to have had another decent year, racking up the numbers of carp visiting you on the bank. Looking back to the start of 2022, was there any time where you struggled at all yourself? For example, we had a long, and very hot summer and many seemed to be struggling with their fishing.





I certainly didn't get out as much as I should have done, and when I did my results, this year varied greatly. I couldn't get a steady rhythm going anywhere.

Jules : To be honest I can't remember any protracted period of struggles but being retired I can go more often and correct things quicker...well I should be able to. Like everybody I've had periods when I've not been on top of my game, made mistakes etc but touch wood 2022 has been kind on the fishing front. Looking at my diary three blanks in a row, four dropped carp in a row and the heatwave was as bad as it got.

Bri : Now the question is... are you on Santa's nice or naughty list? We feel it will be the nice list. haha. so, will there be anything on your Santa wish list that relates to fishing? Is there anything out there right now that you would like to see in your stocking on Christmas morning? I know I have a couple of items that I have dropped hints at with my family.

Jules : I'm hoping his good list... hoping. I'm definitely not perfect (as Roz will confirm) and I'm not the most sympathetic of ears when it comes to people who complain yet do nothing to change things. From what I see many issues people have can be resolved or lessened without resorting to blame others, the state etc....I'm hoping for ZERO fishing related presents on Christmas day but the new KISS Creatures Of The Night box set would be nice...





Bri : so, what will 2023 have in store for you? Do you have any plans made ready? What are the chances of seeing you at Manchester Northern show? Or the Big One? Or maybe even at the Carp Society Horseshoe event later in the year? And talking of the Carp Society... it is great to see them really stepping up and coming back to the forefront of carp angling, exactly where they should be!

Jules: **The older I get the less plans IN STONE I make preferring to see how things turn out. By and large due to good parenting and working my **** off I'm blessed and other than actually playing on stage with KISS I've nothing left on the bucket list. I'm pretty sure I will be joining the Nash Team at the Northern Carp Conference in February and I will definitely be at the Carp Society's Festival of Carp running the Rig Advice Centre with my pal Mike Kavanagh in July. We've trips booked to Kendal, Tenerife, Amsterdam and New York in 2023 which we are excited about (God willing)**



Bri : Well, that is it for 2022 Jules. We would like to take a moment to thank you for your contributions over the last 12 month. We've had a blast chewing the fat with you and sharing some incredible advice and lessons learned from yourself... even I have picked up one or two snippets! You never stop learning in this game if you are willing to keep your mind, eyes and ears open. We wish you and Roz, and your loved ones a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and see you in 2023.

Jules : **Thanks mate it's a pleasure. I do smile when I see so many say, ' it's okay for you with your free gear '. This is my free labour of love as it is for all the contributors.. Sometimes it doesn't always have to be about ' how much? ' But maybe I'm outta synch with the modern breed? Keep up the great work all of you at ' Talking Carp ' and festive greetings.**

Jules

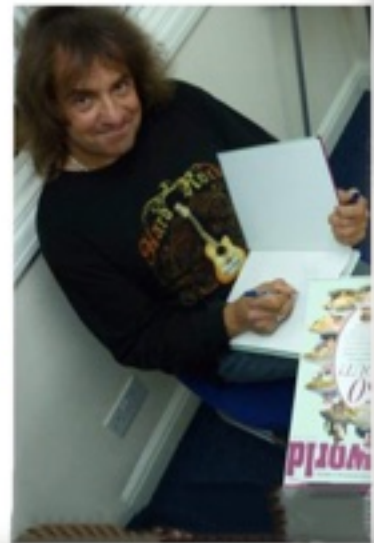
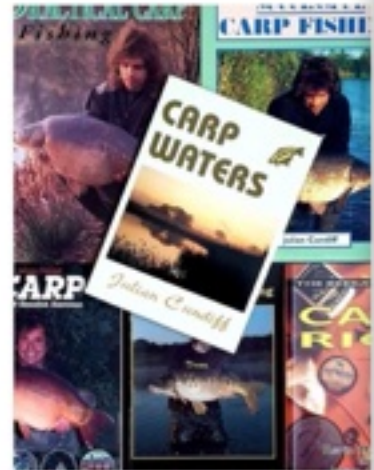
Facebook Julian P Cundiff
Julian Cundiff Angling
Twitter @juliancundiff
Instagram julescundiff1

Bri : Merry Christmas everyone! Have a great one with all your families and friends. See you in 2023 when I will try and drag Mr Cundiff back for more ...



Julian Cundiff Angling

To keep upto date with Jules and interact with him, follow him on social media on the platforms listed below



Julian Cundiff Angling

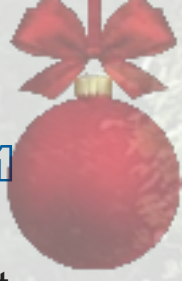
Julescundiff1

@Juliancundiff

DIARIES OF AN AVERAGE CARPER



**BY DAVE LOCKE
AKA DAVE 'CARPER'**



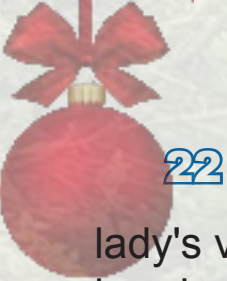
My fishing lately has been nothing spectacular apart from an extraordinary run of 20lb plus commons, which I'm not moaning about, but I just wanted one or two of the rare large mirrors.

So, I thought some comical but true tales from my past might make interesting reading.

Now don't judge me because this all happened in the past when we knew no better and I wouldn't dream of getting up to these sort of exploits nowadays. I think a vast majority of Carpers got up to a bit of poaching back in the early days and I admit I did my fair share.

Bysingwood was run by Faversham AC and was known as an easy doubles water, I fished there many times over a three-year period, but I was never a member, not once was I asked to show my membership ticket and even the secretary would come over for a chat. One very memorable night we arrived about six pm and set up on the road bank. It was strange because after about four hours we still hadn't had a sniff. Then at 11.30pm there was one of the most violent thunderstorms that even today I cannot recall its equal. The storm lasted a couple of hours and then the skies cleared and it was a beautiful night. Then the carp started between the storm passing over and 6.30am I had 12 carp, it was chaos, I would just put one back and one of the rods would be off again, but by 7am it all calmed down and went back to normal. Definitely a night I will remember. Occasionally we poached a lake of about 5 acres in the grounds of a very posh girls only boarding school. We thought that we were quite safe because there was a large island that kept us hidden from the main building. The carp weren't that big, up to around 15lb and mostly koi's that were very hungry, just one rod and a loaf of bread and you could get a dozen in just a couple of hours. Our access to the lake involved climbing onto the roof of our van and scaling an 8 foot high wall, getting back out we climbed a tree close to the wall and back onto the van roof.

The lake was 50 yards from the wall. One lovely sunny day we had been eerrr guesting for an hour and caught a few each when we heard a posh

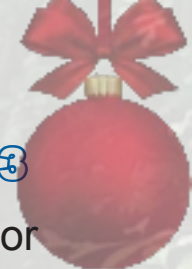


Diaries of an average carper

lady's voice shout.... "what do you think you're doing", standing with her hands on her hips was a nun looking very cross. As quick as we could we wound our rods in and ran for the exit tree, chased by two nuns holding up their habits as they ran. We made it over the wall and drove off as fast as we could, fully expecting to get struck by lightning sent by the nun's boss. We never went back to that lake again just couldn't cope with the embarrassment of getting beat up my two nuns....

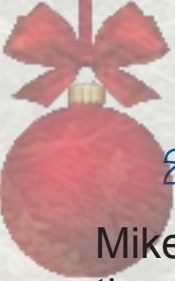
Whilst on a family holiday my mate Mike had wangled an invite to fish an unfished lake on the farm they were staying at. He didn't fish it when he was on this holiday because he had promised his wife there would be no fishing this time. But as soon as he got home, he was on the phone to me telling me all about it. What's the lake like and how big are the carp I asked. No idea I didn't see the place but the farmer said there was huge carp in there, was the reply I got. So, after Mike had made a phone call to the farmer it was arranged for us to go and spend four days in September on this supposed idyllic lake.

Mike had been told that we could park right beside the lake so we decided to not bother with bivvies we would just take my caravanette, a diesel Austin J2 not the fastest motor but very reliable and nice and comfy. It had been sunny and warm for a good few weeks before our trip but half way up the M4 the heavens opened up and it really chucked it down. Being super tough Carpers, we pressed on regardless only to get lost and end up 30 miles past the village we were aiming for. Mikes navigation skills had let us down a good few times in the past so why I listened to him I have no idea. It was 6.30pm by the time we arrived at the farm and we were greeted by a tubby happy Chappy that asked us if we would like a beer after our long trip. I can't actually remember much about that evening, except at some point we ran out of beer and started on homemade cider, no idea how but I woke up in my caravanette feeling a tad under the weather. obviously one of them beers was a bit off. There



was no sign of Mike anywhere. As I was having a pee behind my motor the farmer appeared and asked if I would like a cuppa, Where's Mike I asked? I Don't know, he came out with you last night. We looked in the barn and surrounding area but no sign of my missing mate anywhere. I was beginning to think he had been abducted by aliens but as we walked back from the barn the driver's door opened on my motor and out popped Mike, he had slept across the front seats. After a few much-needed cups of tea we ask farmer where was the lake and was told to just go up through the woods for 300 yards and you will see the lake on your right. It had stopped raining through the night and it looked like being a lovely day, apart from pounding heads that is. After about the 300 yards there was still no sign of a lake and to make matters worse the motor had got stuck in the mud. We pushed and pulled put loads of twigs under the wheels but the blessed thing was well and truly stuck. Then we heard a vehicle coming up the track and saw the farmer on a tractor. I thought I'd pop up and see if you're, ok? said the farmer. He towed our motor out of the mud and we asked him where's the lake. It's there right beside you up that slope, he said. We were right next to the lake but didn't see it as it was one of them places raised above the ground dug out for irrigation. It was actually quite a pleasant looking place of about 3 acres with bushes and reeds around it the only problem was there was a very steep slope leading to bankside and there was no chance of me getting the caravanette any closer than it already was. OH well somehow, we'll manage. The farmer left us to get sorted and told us if we needed anything or got stuck again just come and get him.

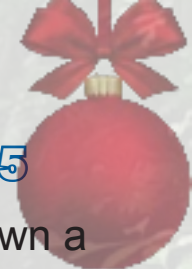
Eager to get sorted I got my gear and carefully made my way up the slope and down the other side to the lake. As I was getting sorted I heard a heavy thud, a crunching noise and some pretty colourful language. Mike had slipped down the slope carrying his gear and was now laying in a heap with one leg in the lake. Of course, I was very sympathetic and didn't laugh, much, Trouble was Mike had fallen on his rods and broken all 3 of them. So now we were on a lake for 4 days with no bivvies 50yards away from our motor and one of us had no rods. Luckily I had a spare 8ft stalking rod and a float rod in my van which although not happy about it



Mike used them. Our plan was to just fish until we got tired then retire to the van, and take it in turns to go and make tea, neither of us had brought a Cooker with us because of the double burner in the caravanette.

We started catching immediately and the farmer was right, the lake was full of carp. trouble was the biggest one we had might have just about made 5lb. After a couple of days we had enough so decided to look for somewhere else to finish our session off. After saying our goodbyes and with an invite to come back anytime we set off to find somewhere with some larger carp. We had a plan, go into the town find a tackle shop and ask in there. Gawd knows what town it was but eventually we found a tackle shop and Mike brought a couple of Edgar Seally cheap carp rods.

So, the bloke was very eager to help and told us of a lake just a few miles away that had carp to 20lb stocked. We found the lake quite quickly and were soon set up right behind the caravanette. After about 3 hours Mike landed a common of around 15lb so things were looking promising. We fished through the night just sleeping under the stars but no more takes. I had just got to the motor around 7am to make a cuppa when I heard my buzzer going, quick as I could I raced back to my rods and picked up the right hand one, after a short fight I landed one of about 12lb. There was no one else fishing on the lake and we had not seen a soul the whole time we were there. Mid-afternoon a car turned up and a couple of chaps approached us. Can I see your membership cards, one of them asked. We're not members mate we are just day ticket anglers how much is it please, we don't do day tickets it's members only, we were told by the tackle shop it's a day ticket water, well it bloody ain't so stop fishing and get out, or well confiscate your tackle. I won't go into detail here, but a heated argument started which eventually ended up with threats of the police being called. So, we quickly packed up and loaded the van. Now my old motor had been super reliable the whole-time I'd. had it covering thousands of miles without missing a beat. But now when I needed it to get us away from the very upset chaps, it wouldn't start. The battery was as flat as a witch's boob. One of us had left the interior light on when we had made tea in the dark.



So, Mike and our new found friends, cough were now pushing me down a gravel track trying to bump start the motor.

Not a chance, tyres just wouldn't get enough traction on the gravel to turn the engine over.

One of the not so friendly chaps drove to a garage and tried to borrow some jump leads, the garage wouldn't lend the jump leads out so they came out in a van and started my motor which cost me 10 quid.

We still had a day or two of our supposed holiday left so decided to head towards home and see if we could find somewhere a bit closer to spend our last days.

We eventually found a day ticket water just outside Oxford, and we spent the last night and day there without catching anything. This was definitely the worst fishing trip ever for me and one of them when I should have stayed at home,

Hope you all have a great Christmas,

Dave





IN THE MARGIN
PARTICLES



THE CAMPAIGN HAS STARTED

THE DELL BY SCOTT GEEZER GRANT

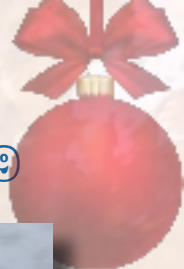


After my last successful session, it was some 4 weeks later that I was back again this time for only 3 nights. I had been introducing the bait and I had brought 15 kg of crushed and whole boilie with me just to be sure I do not run out. I was also armed with 10 kilos of chillie hemp and 5 kg of pellet. So, on the bait front I was sorted.

I arrived at the lake midday on a Monday the weather forecast was 20oc every day with double figures through the night. The wind was West/North West and after grabbing a mat/sling and net I drove down towards the White Bag. Luckily for me there was no one in it the wind was blowing from my left to right which is great for this swim, I already had my spots marked out so it was a case of get everything set up, go for a shower before getting the rods out and chilling. It definitely felt warmer than 20oc I was absolutely sweating. There were only two other anglers fishing down the other end, and late afternoon Lee turned up and went into Gerpins, a great swim especially if there is a new west/South Westerly as the fish get right in there.

With the rods out on their spots with plenty of bait it was time to sit back and hopefully the alarms will be singing. Only after an hour of Lee casting out, he banked a 26lb mirror, and I was left wondering if I had picked the right swim to start my campaign in, but have faith is what I was telling myself, the fish will come, you just have to be patient. As the sun started to set, I thought the fish would start to

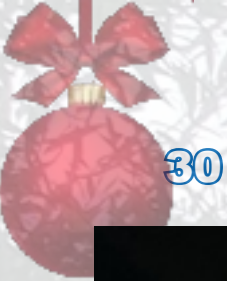




show themselves, but they decided against it. I went to sleep just after midnight and was woken up with my alarm clock at 04:00 o'clock. I got up put the kettle up in readiness for the morning shows. Just after 0500 o'clock the fish started to show which made me feel better. Lee drove past me at 07:00 o'clock on his way to work and said he also had a 23lb common in the early hours, so the fish were evidently over in front of him.

After copious amounts of tea and weeing like a race horse I was sat watching the water and just after 09:00 o'clock the left-hand rod went into meltdown, as I lifted the rod the fish was stripping braid at an alarming rate, I managed to get the fish under control and a few minutes later it hit the surface, I

kept the pressure on as I had to negotiate the fish around the weed beds out in front. Once it was only 40 yards in front of the swim the fish decided it wanted to go right, straight over my other two rods! But with luck on my side, it managed to avoid my other rods and a few minutes later the fish was engulfed in the net. It turned out to be a lovely common and a good fish at 31lb 9oz. I gave my Mrs a call and she was at the lake within 10 minutes. She took awesome photos then the fish was treated and returned safely. The rod was put back out on the spot with more bait, hopefully the fish are going to get more confident feeding on the spots. An hour later my Mrs left and I sat there tying some new rigs up and sorting my end tackle bag out... a job I have been putting off



The Dell



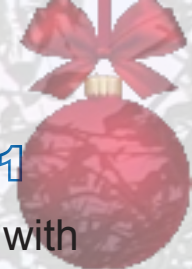
for months.

I wound the rods in at 3pm and went for a shower, I feel like a brand-new man after a lovely shower and ready and raring to go again. I put the rods back out on their spots around 7pm, then put my dinner on. The wind had started to turn and was now a straight Northernly straight into my face. Come 9pm the wind had completely died off and the lake was like a mill pond, it looked like a sheet of glass. Come 10pm the wind got up and was coming straight at me again, but being

as it was another warm night the cool breeze meant for a comfortable sleep. After a lovely night's sleep, I was up early and just after first light the fish started to show, and even more so than yesterday, a lot of fish were showing to my right, where I only had one rod,

the day started very overcast, perfect fishing weather. At 07:30 I had a savage liner on the right-hand rod, but it didn't materialise into anything, most probably a pike, who knows. The temperature started to rise and today's prediction is 25oc but being as it was overcast it was bearable, I hate the bleaching hot sun.





Just before 09:00 I got a single bleep on my left-hand rod, followed by another, I went down to the rod and sat there for ages but no more bleeps and the braid stayed as it was. A few fish were still showing over the left and middle rods which gave me confidence that surely it will not be long before one of the rods is away. Well, my predictions were right at 09:15 the left had rod produce another banging common this time turning out to be 26lb 14oz. One of the Bailiffs Chris was walking around and took the pics for me, which turned out great. I wasted no time in getting the fish back and getting the rod straight back out on the spot. The swim is starting to build now and the spots are becoming clearer and clearer.

The wind was blowing North/North Westerly and the current pressure

was 1025 but climbing to 1028 with a day time temperature of 26oc, my saving grace was that it was overcast but very muggy. The day flew by and before I knew it, I was rebaiting the rods and introducing even more bait onto the spots. Just before dark I sat eating my dinner watching the water. The mozzies were out of control and yes, I did get bitten a few times but that is the sacrifice you make if you want to watch the water. A few fish did show which again gave me confidence that they were here and feeding on the bait.

Later that evening I gave the Mrs a call before going to sleep, which did not take me long at all. In the early hours I was woken by my receiver going into melt down, I scrambled out the bivvy fighting with the mozzi mesh on the way out, it was the

left-hand rod and the fish was still taking braid, even when I lifted into the fish it still wanted to take braid. A few minutes later and the fish was under control and a further 5 minutes later the fish was engulfed in the



The Dell

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waiting net. It turned out to be a mirror weighing 22lb 4oz, a few self takes and the fish was treated and returned, I looked at my phone and it was just after 03:00 o'clock. It felt a little chilly and you could feel the moisture in the air.

I rebaited the rod and got it straight back out on the spot, then stuck the kettle on as my alarm would be going off soon, so what is the point in trying to go back to bed. Before long the sun was rising and the light levels were coming up, and out of the blue the wind got up and started to come straight into my face, coupled with light rain great!!!

After a manic zip down, it only lasted a few minutes then the rain stopped and the wind dropped. At 0630 as I was sitting watching the water a big slick came up over the left-hand rod which is a great sign of feeding fish, something had definitely disturbed the baited area. I sat frantically waiting for the rod to go, but nothing materialised, which really surprised me. I started to pack up at 10:00 and before leaving I dispatched another

load of bait on all three spots. It will be a couple of weeks before I can return but I wanted to give the fish plenty of bait to be getting on with. I did sneak over the lake the following week and there was no one fishing down that end so I dispatched more bait on the spots. Once I start a campaign, I will give it my all, it's like an obsession, effort equals reward and if I keep doing what I'm doing the rewards will come. The only thing that will hamper me is other anglers jumping in the swim, but that's life unfortunately, there are a few anglers that know what I am doing and have steered clear of the swim, leaving me to my own devices so to speak, you know who you are



chaps top fellas. But you will always get anglers that know what you are doing, but will still jump on your work.....

Does the next session produce? Does the bait keep catching? Do I even manage to get back in the same swim? All will be revealed in my next article.

Christmas is only a week or so away, I would like to wish all the Taking Carp readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, may you net be full of chunks in 2023.

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

www.a2baits.co.uk

www.sharptackle.co.uk

www.castaway-pva.co.uk

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If you would like more information on becoming a member of The Dell contact Michael Prior on 07768-124462 he will be more than happy to help.

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Scott “Geezer” Grant

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A serene sunset scene over a calm body of water. The sun is a bright, glowing orb in the upper left, casting a shimmering path of light across the water's surface. The sky is a deep, warm orange, and the distant shoreline is silhouetted with trees. In the foreground, three fishing rods are positioned diagonally, their guides and rings clearly visible against the darkening water.

Scott 'Geezer' Grant -
The Interview by Mark Carper



This month, I decided to turn-the-tables on Talking Carps longest serving regular writer, by putting him in the Interviewee seat, and firing a load of questions at him.

Scott ‘Geezer’ Grant has been writing for the Magazine since Issue 1, way back in January 2016 and I don’t think he’s missed an issue since... he has also appeared on the front cover no less than four times.... So, I thought it was about time we put him in the hot seat and found out more about the man behind the angling stories, of which he has plenty....

TC: Scott, usually at this point, I would say “welcome to the pages of Talking Carp Magazine”, but you’ve been in it more than I have, so I will just stick with “welcome...!!”

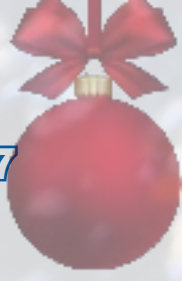
SG: It’s been a pleasure and still is for me to be sharing my exploits with the readers of Talking Carp. I made Brian a promise before he started the mag and to this day, I still uphold my promise.

It’s great for readers to hopefully take something from the articles I write, I hope they inspire the readers as much as they inspire me when I am writing them.

TC: First off, you seem to be better known in carp circles as “Geezer” so, is that the case for life in general and how did that name come about...?

SG: When I was younger, there was a big group of us and it was hard remembering everyone’s name. One day I called out Geezer and they all responded so the name just stuck. It’s funny how it still sticks to this day.

TC: How long have you been a Carp Angler? and what or who got you in to the sport...?



SG: I have been carp fishing since I was 15, so nearly 40 years! A mate of mine back then Mimmsie Muller took me over Fairlop waters and that is where I caught my first carp a 13lb mirror that felt and looked like a monster at the time. From that moment on I was hooked excuse the pun!

TC: Is Carping just a Hobby to you and what do you do for a living...?

SG: Yes, carp fishing is my out if you like, my time on the bank is to get away from everyday life and the stresses it brings. Waking up on the bank at first light is the best time for me, watching the fish show and the wildlife waking up. I work at London Underground as a Customer Service Manager, which has its challenges but I have worked here for 26 years now and like my job.

TC: Would you like carp angling to be your full-time job or are you happy with how things are...?

SG: I don't think for me I would relish fishing full time; it would get boring and be very mundane. Targeting fish would be easy as in the end you would simply bore them out. Especially if you are fishing a water 5 days a week. Also, the fact of living on the bank would get me down. I like going fishing when I have time off from work.

On the other hand, it would be different if I was working for a big company and they wanted me to fish different waters home and abroad and I was getting paid my current salary, then I would have to seriously consider it, but in all honesty, that's never going to happen.

TC: I can only presume that you enjoy writing articles about your carp angling, seeing how you have written eighty for the magazine, but what got you in to doing the articles in the first place and have you written for any other publications...?



The Interview

SG: Back in the day I wrote a couple of articles for Big Carp, and another big publication but I cannot remember the name of it, then I was asked to write a column in Carp Talk covering the Essex region as the writer could not do it anymore. I snapped up the chance and my column was called “The Secret World of the Essex Boys” of which I put my heart and soul into. I made sure all the catch reports were up to date and never missed an edition and as you know it was a weekly magazine, so making sure all the editing was done and the photos were on par took a lot of my time up. They ran a regional reporter of the year competition but only for 3 years and I was surprised to win it 3 years running, the readers voted which made it even more special to win.

TC: How much time do you set aside for your writing and do you do any on the bank whilst waiting for those carp to bite or do the two not combine well...?

SG: I do not put any time aside for my writing, I simply write when I have some spare time. I have in the past taken my lap top fishing with me with all intent purposes of writing an article, but because I am so insistent on watching the water it never happens, the furthest I have got is getting the lap top out of the van, but I am yet to write an article whilst fishing. Watching the water is so important and I would not want to miss anything.

TC: With the amount of angling you do, and the number of articles you have written, have you ever contemplated writing a book...?





SG: No, is the short answer I do not consider myself to be in the same league as some of the anglers that I know that have written books, i.e. Levy, Peck to name a few.

TC: What advice do you have for those out there that fancy writing about their bank-side exploits but perhaps feel they are not good enough...?

SG: Anyone can write, the key is the way you write. For instance, you cannot write an article of your exploits with the same words as you speak, so you must think about your words and how it sounds when its written. What I would say is write how it happens “keep it real”, this is what I do and anglers reading my articles can relate to some of the stuff that happens, and that has happened to me, as it’s happened to them. Take your time and you can achieve anything you put your mind to.

TC: In terms of your angling, how much bank-time do you get on an average month and what sacrifices if any, do you make to do this...?

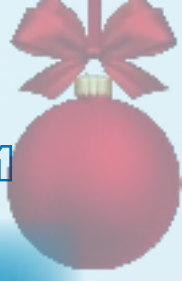


SG: I go fishing every 4 weeks when I get a long weekend (4 nights), plus any holiday I book from work which gives me more time on the bank. I try to find the balance between my fishing and home life, I do however have a very understanding Mrs which makes a massive difference. I am also a qualified Scuba diver so that takes up some of my time, diving at every opportunity especially lake dives, and I do love diving all over the world and up and down the country. My daughters are all grown up now, but I have a granddaughter whom I love to bits and try and spend as much time with her as possible. It is a balancing act that is constantly changing.

TC: Scuba Diver? You mentioned you have dived lakes, what was the reason behind that?

SG: I have dived the Dell a few times, they have a big aerating pump out in the lake and it had to be resecured, so I assisted the boys with its install. I have also, with the help of a few fellow divers removed a lot of snags that were present (especially from the plateau). Every year I dive the lake in early March to assess the weed situation. I remember on one dive I was slowly moving along just off the bottom and in my sights, I could see a large Mirror, within a few seconds the fish was right in front of me followed by a couple of smaller fish. The larger fish turned out to be a 50lber!!!





It's amazing what you see under the water, it's a completely different world. I have also done a lot of snag removal over at Creedence Lake for my mate Danny the owner, I just love being in the water its where I feel comfortable. I have also help remove a lot of nasty snags from Bayeswater Syndicate over the course of a couple of days and with the assistance of a couple of fellow divers.

TC: Have you ever had the opportunity to look at your setup, below the surface?

SG: Yes, as a matter of fact I have, when I was at Bayeswater Syndicate I assisted with the removal of some very nasty snags, which took us over 2 days to remove. I was fishing the evenings then diving in the day. On the last day I decided with my dive buddy to go and have a look in front of the swim I was fishing. I was fishing in 14ft of water in amongst what I thought felt like light weed. When I approached the area, I could see some of my bait and yes it was indeed amongst light weed. After seeing this with my own eyes my confidence went through the roof, and in fact that year I went on to catch most of the A-Team residents.



TC: Is Scuba diving something you want to progress in?

SG: Most definitely I have progressed quickly (4years) up to Sports Diver which takes me down to 35 metres, I am also a qualified assistant instructor. The next step up for me is Dive Leader which I am currently studying, and when qualified will allow me to go to 50 metres. Then from there I want to go

open water instructor then advanced instructor. My club is BSAC 608 Thurrock.

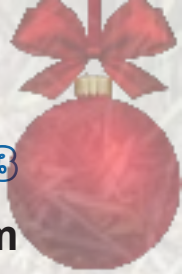
TC: If memory serves me right, your first article was about fishing on the 'Dell' and so was your most recent in issue 80, so what is the Dell, where is it and how long have you been fishing it...?

SG: I am good friends with the owner of The Dell, and he asked me in 2005 to help create a fishery that I would want to own. So again, it was a place I put my heart and soul into along with the then fishery manager Peter Breeze (God rest his soul) and without doubt the lake that means the most to me. The place has grown into an awesome fishery and a place I feel right at home with. It not only has big carp but has all the amenities you could want for. The new Management are spot on as are the bailiffs, it really is a special place to be.

TC: Do you fish any other waters on a regular basis...?

Scott Grant and Mark Carper

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SG: I do have a couple of other waters, but I have not fished them this year due to the water levels being extremely low. So, I have been concentrating my efforts this year on the Dell.

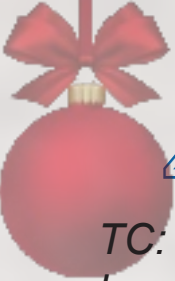
TC: ...and do you fish outside of the UK on a regular basis...?

SG: Well, I went to France last year on a trip with the boys, and are going again in 2023, but as for going on a regular basis no. Hopefully now that Covid has done one it could be a year-on-year trip you never know.

TC: In terms of 'Tackle' what main gear do you use... Rods, Reels, Alarms, Bivvies etc...?

SG: My current rods are Free spirit Hi-s-200 12ft, reels are Shimano Mags, alarms are my every faithful ATTs (which I have used since they were manufactured). I have a few different bivvies, my spring one is the Avid dual layer which is so easy to put up and the room inside is immense, Summer my double top comes out, then Autumn/ Winter the awesome Fox Retreat+ with the winter skin.





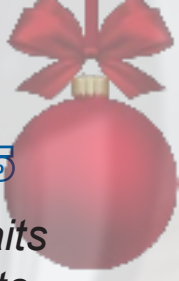
TC: ...and what about line and Terminal Tackle, what is your favoured brands and rigs...?

SG: My spare spools on all my reels even my other set up all have Ridgemonkey 15lb, for me it's by far the strongest and most durable line I have used, also being as its 0.38mm it allows me to thread a metre of tubing on without the need for any tools. For this past year I have been using their braid as my main line and its superb, due to the Dell being extremely weedy this stuff just cuts right through it. Terminal tackle is from Sharp Tackle a company I have been with since they started up some 7 or 8 years ago. Their hooks are so sharp straight out the packet and I have caught loads of big fish on them. My current rigs are the chod and the Ronnie as these two rigs cover all basis for me.

TC: Do you have specific methods for Rig set-up that you can share with us or do you prefer to just keep it simple...?

SG: As I just mentioned currently, I am using just two rigs the Chod and the Ronnie, they cover all basis for me, I like to keep everything simple there is no need to over complicate things.





TC: Now, I know from your articles, you are a dedicated user of A2 Baits and you are also one of their consultants too. How did you first come to use the bait and what does being a consultant entail...?

SG: I have known Craig the owner of A2 baits for some years, and when the time came for me to leave Galaxy baits, I contacted Craig and it went from there, we had a meeting and I signed up with him straight away, and I have never looked back. A couple of my mates were using A2 baits with great success, they spoke so highly of his bait, which is a great credit to him and his team. Being a consultant brings lots of responsibility, representing the company every time I am on the bank, trying new baits, making sure you support all the team members, promoting the brand etc.

TC: What are you favoured baits from their range and why...?

SG: This is a great question, I had great success using the Monster Tuna, a bait that got released just after I joined the team. I had a great first season catching most of the residents in the lake and at great weights too. But it did not matter where I fished the bait would produce it was and still is my





number one bait. Last Autumn I tried the Banoffee as a couple of mates said it really is the business, so I tried it on a session in November and it produced a 40lber!! The following month I decided to try the Creamy Toffee which again surprised me as I ended up banking a 40lb common, then a winter 40lb mirror!!! So, for me it doesn't matter what bait I use, it simply speaks for itself.

TC: Are you associated with any other companies for your carp angling...?

SG: I am currently a consultant for Castaway PVA, Sharp Tackle for hooks and end tackle, A2 as you know, and I use particles from In the Margin Particles.

TC: What is your biggest achievement whilst being a consultant...?





SG: In the past I joined Nash Tackle not long after catching the Essex record. As they are a company that does everything, it was good to get stuck in. I worked closely with Kevin Nash and fellow consultant Dave Levy. My biggest achievement with the company was designing the Wide Boy Bed chair as it is known today. There was no bed chair that catered for the larger angler and when I first saw the prototype, I knew it would be a game changer. This was back in 2007/8, the bed chair went on to win awards for 2 years running. There were quite a few products that I designed that are still used today. It gives me great satisfaction to see anglers using products that I designed. I was with the company for 10 years which again in this industry is an achievement.

When I joined the team at Galaxy baits, I sat down with Micky the owner and discussed a nut-based bait, a few weeks later the bait was born and is called “Nut Job” just like me lol. On my first session I caught a 42lb common which is still my current PB common.

The companies I am with now are all so supportive and my loyalty will always remain 100% to them.



TC: Goals.... I was recently speaking with Rod Bird and he was telling me he set himself a goal ten years ago to catch a 50lb carp each year, which up to know he has achieved. Do you set yourself goals and targets and if so, how many have you reached...?

SG: To be honest I have never set myself personal targets, other than catching specific fish.

However last year I decided with all the Covid malarky to set myself a personal target which was to catch a 40lber in each season. To my amazement I achieved it and topped it off on New Year's Eve with a fish known as "The Pretty One" at 41lb 12oz. This year has gone the same way so far, I have caught a Spring 40lber, a Summer 40lber (well 2 in fact) so I only have the Autumn and Winter to go, and if I achieve it my god that will be an achievement.

TC: Do you have any life-time goals in your carp angling...?

SG: I would like to have a go at Euro Aqua in Hungary for some world record breaking carp.

TC: ...and what's next for you, what does 2023 have in store...?

**SG: I have my eye on a water that I will hopefully get a ticket for fingers crossed; it holds a good head of carp and some real bangers to go for. Other than that I will just keep enjoying my fishing. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my following sponsors for their continued support
A2 Baits, Sharp Tackle, Castaway PVA, In the margin particles, and finally Talking Carp Magazine. Your support is greatly appreciated so thank you.**

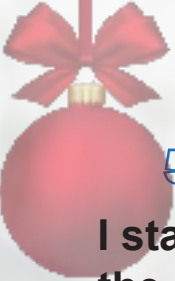
TC: Our pleasure 'Geezer' and it was great to get to know the man behind so many interesting articles and great captures.



Quick Fire Question..... Which do you prefer...?

- *Commons or Mirrors...? **Mirrors***
- *Day Sessions or Overnighters or Longer Sessions...? **Long Session***
- *Small or Big Waters...? **Not fussed***
- *Remote Locations or Full Facilities...? **Again, not fussed***
- *UK or Outside...? **UK for me***
- *Spring / Summer Autumn or Winter fishing...? **I fish all seasons but Summer is my favourite***
- *Bottom or Surface...? **Bottom Baits / Pop-Ups***
- *Close in or Long Range...? **Both***
- *If you could only fish one more session, where would it be..? **The Dell, with a few good mates***
- *What is the most memorable Fish you caught so far and why? **It would have to be a fish known as “The Annie” from the Essex Manor, in November 2003 (I think) at the time there was only Lee Jackson fishing. I went into a swim known as the Steps, I had been trickling a bit of bait in and a few hours into the session, whilst I was sitting with Lee at his bivvy (he was in the Rope swim next door) drinking tea, I got a couple of bleeps.***





The Interview

I started to walk towards my swim to investigate as I thought it was the coots doing me and all the time I was walking Lee was behind me saying “it’s the Annie”, “it’s the Annie”, I thought he’s mad and as I got to my swim the rod was away, even when I was playing the fish Lee was still saying it was the Annie and being the gentleman he is he netted her for me and did the honours with the weighing as by that time, I had fell to bits....!

It was my first UK 50lber and at the time it was also the Essex Record at 51lb 14oz.

To this day I still have Lee to thank for the way he looked after me and made it a very special capture. He is a true gent and a Legend of our Sport.

All the Best

Be Lucky and remember its only fishing

‘Geezer’

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R.I.P Keith Napier

By Andy Murray





The mark of a man is the legacy he leaves.

I have spoken a couple of times in my articles this year about catching carp not being the most important thing there is, rather the enjoyment of carp fishing or helping others taking precedence in my own fishing. I also wrote about taking some time out and working on my health and fitness, due to getting older. These topics were brought home to me very recently by the devastating news of the sudden passing of one of my lifelong friends Keith Napier, larger than life in many ways to those that knew him. Keith made friends wherever he went, and many people have very fond memories of him.

I have known Keith for about 35 years, we met when fishing the same syndicate back in the late 80's, which back then was Erics (of Erics Angling) Syndicate. It would be fair to say our initial conversations were a bit bristly, as two very opinionated gruff Yorkshire men discussing things would be. However, over time we got to talking about fishing and then about forming a group, along with Roger Linley, we set up the Yorkshire Carp Study Group. Keith, Roger, and I would run meetings in the depths of winter in a freezing upstairs room in a small pub in Kippax. It was always rammed. For a small group in the early nineties, we had many great angling names attend- Mark Holmes, Danny Fairbrass, Jules, Brian

Skoyles etc. The thing was they were always great fishing meetings, and there was lots of knowledge shared back then and plenty of banter.

As the group grew in size, we moved our meetings to St Mary's Hall, which was opposite Erics Angling Centre, from an average of fifty per meeting, it became a hundred plus. It would be fair to say, the meetings became epic, though not quite as epic as the curry and drinks back at my place afterwards. Eventually we made the decision to become the West Yorkshire Region for the Carp Society, holding 3-4 meetings each winter and raising thousands of pounds for the Society and for the Junior Carp Schools at Horseshoe. The backbone of all these



R.I.P Keith Napier



meetings was Keith, hours spent on the phone, blagging gear for raffles, dealing with the juniors, organizing help etc. Without his efforts, they would not have been the success they were, he also had a very loyal team around him to help with this work. The Carp Society Schools at Horseshoe That started in the 90's were a new thing, which was first set up by Tim Paisley. At first, we first helped with the schools and then ran them for a few years as well as

becoming Governors of the Carp Society, they were busy times. The events were awesome and there were a great deal of folk helping back then, a great many friendships formed, all of whom have expressed their sorrow upon hearing the news of Keith passing.

For both of us, those early Horseshoe events were incredibly special times even though feelings often ran high at times! What is easy to forget are

the great times we had and the juniors we helped. Keith was instrumental in this, the time he spent behind the scenes organizing all the things that make an event go to plan, he was tireless in this, it's often the case that the people in the background get overlooked, but without that planning and work, those events would not have run as they did. The late 90's saw the formation of the BCAC and World Carp Classics, Keith and I won the first ever BCAC at Horseshoe and did a feature series for Sky at one of the World Carp Classics at Madine.

Whilst a lot of our life was based around Carp fishing for many years, fishing in the UK, France, and Spain, of which there are many stories to be told, stories that are not for

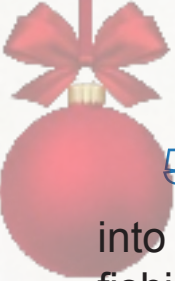
the faint hearted or squeamish, it's just a good job there weren't mobile phones back in those days for pictures to be taken! Keith got me out of trouble on more than one occasion with the French and Spanish police by showing his warrant card! We also met socially through other non-fishing groups and with families and friends - Quiz nights, snooker, bowling to name but a few things.

Time ran its course with the Society meetings and Carp Schools at Horseshoe, this was a time when I took a back seat from carp fishing for a while, Keith continued though, as he felt there was still work to do with the youngsters. He re-started with the Yorkshire Carp Study Group and the Junior Carp Schools

in Yorkshire, it would be fair to say he was instrumental in helping a lot of young carp anglers become the anglers they are today, the messages I have received since his passing really brought this home. Keith also liked to fish for other species and was a keen shooter as well. I often used to say he

didn't have enough time for all his past-times. In recent years he probably spent more time shooting than Carp Fishing. We often talked about him getting back into carp fishing, he did turn up on the bank once or twice to join me for a natter, but never got the rods out. He had spoken about going





R.I.P Keith Napier

into coaching some fishing again once he retired...Our fishing trips in recent years were fewer, mostly charity matches for an organization we were involved in, but we did get out shooting a couple of times. And still met socially, I have attached a photo of attending my Son-in-law's Stag do in Benidorm, it was an epic weekend, as were many of our

gatherings.
Last year he became unwell and spent some time waiting for surgery. Earlier this year he underwent a quadruple bypass operation, which went well, and he seemed to recover well, we went out for a curry to celebrate in the summer. It seemed life was getting back to normal for Keith. It was only the week

before his passing we were both at our local BCSG meeting and chatting about life in general. His passing came as a shock to many who knew him, and I know a few of us shed a tear upon receiving the news last week, his family are understandably devastated. From the many messages I have received personally and also seen posted on social media he



Andy Murray

59



was both admired and loved as a man and for his contribution to Carp Fishing here in Yorkshire and further afield. These few words do little to represent how I and others feel about Keith as a friend, teacher,

angler, husband, father. I hope you will join me in a silent good wish to him and his family-Bon Voyage big man...may you Rest in Peace.

Wishing you all a great Christmas and New

Year, enjoy the time you spend with your families this festive season, you never know when it will be the last time.

Catch you next time.

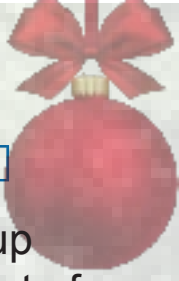
Andy





AUTUMN ON THE AIRFIELD LAKE PART 1
BT RICHARD HANDEL





Over the next few issues, I will let you into my happy place, otherwise known as Airfield Lake. I have been fishing it over the first 2 Autumn months, but unfortunately, it closes at the end of October until the following March each year. I fish with a friend called Ian and he has become part of this great journey. With the hot weather this year, the level of the lake had dropped by nearly 3 feet, and the dreaded boulders, bars, and snags were on full display. We weren't really sure how this would play out with the carp's behavior.

Enjoy

After the success of my last trip, I was hoping to get back to that area. As the lake had been pretty quiet over the last few months, I was feeling very hopeful, until I had a phone call from Ian saying there were two people set up along the area we were heading for. At this point, I'd finished my gardening job and was just pulling up to the gate. I met Ian in the car park and went for a walkabout. There was no point in looking on our normal island swims as the water levels were too

low unless we fancied splitting up around the complex. I spend a lot of the winter by myself, it's quite nice to be sociable these days.

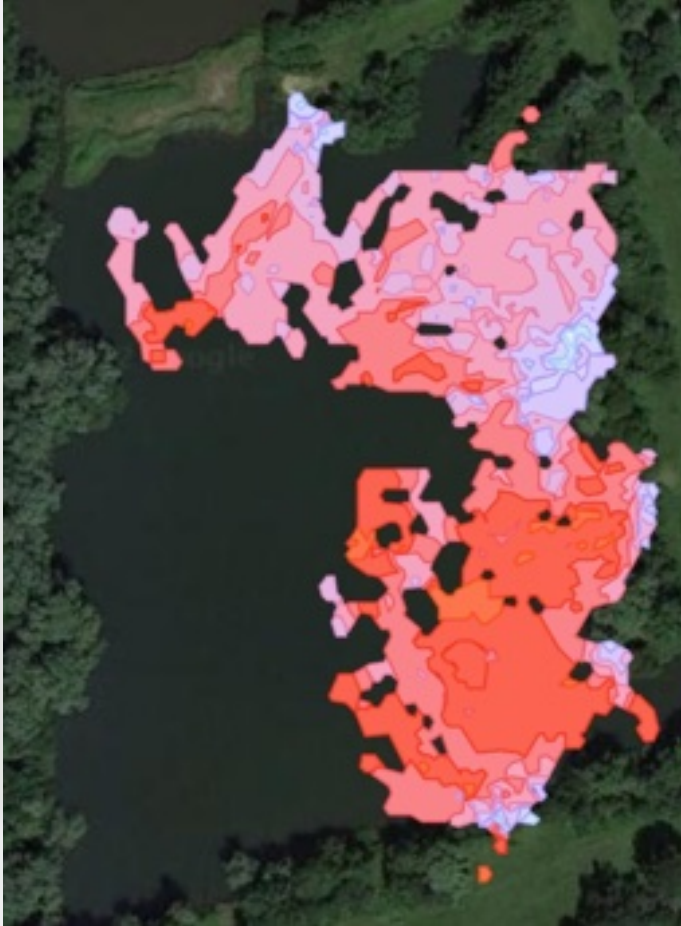
We wandered down to the Bottom Lake car park and much to our surprise it was empty. We continued on and had a look around some swims and decided on one of the points and the first lawn swim. I'd not fished this part of the venue since before the first lockdown in 2020, late March I think, when I had a lovely 26lber

We call it the Bottom Lake or South Lake, but it's all joined together with wide channels between each part, totaling about 64 acres.

My swim

I was set up on the Lawn Swim and Ian was in the First Point Swim, there's in fact another point that no one actually fishes. As I had not fished this lake for some years, I headed over to my Fish Deeper Page and refreshed my memory of the features that were out in front of this swim and the number of wraps needs to be cast. I always like to add on a couple in these situations as it helps to get a feel for the

swim again. There was no point in getting the Deeper out of my bag as the wind was pushing hard on this bank.



Bottom Lake

This part of the complex is pretty big, unfortunately, the far bank is out of bounds, hence no Deeper readings.

My Area

This is my swim and I'm going to focus on the far bar. It is 7ft deep and 23 wraps out, this gives Ian a bit more water, as he is tucked up

under the trees on the point.

Back of the bar

7ft on the top of the bar and 10ft over the back, give or take a couple of feet, due to the drop in water levels this year.

I've baited this spot quite heavily with about 4 kilos of 15mm Catalyst and Classic Corn Boilies and I will be fishing a 20mm Waffer of each flavor over the top. There's been plenty of carp showing at long range ever since we arrived today.

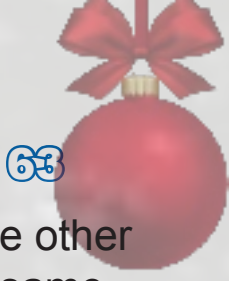
With a few light showers tonight, the wind swinging around to the north, and the pressure only slightly rising, I am feeling confident about this trip, it's cloudy and overcast until Sunday morning.

Ian sat in my swim this afternoon, after getting everything sorted, with the exception of casting his rods out. He headed back around 6pm just as the sun was going behind the trees.

The rain arrived sometime in the night, not really sure when and once it had eased off around 5 am the carp came on the feed.

My first take was on my right-hand

Richard Handel



rod and it absolutely belted off into the distance. I had to walk back up my slippery slope to gain some height, as I could feel the carp knocking around on the boulders. Once it was over the bar, it just ran towards me, I struggled to keep up with it and was wondering where it was heading next. It's been so long since I've fished down here, my lack of knowledge regarding the snags hiding under the water is showing.

Once in the margins, it just hugged the bottom. After a few minutes, it was slowing down and eventually in the net.



10 lber

10 or 11lber, I wasn't weighting it as there was still a lot of light drizzle about in the air. I quickly slipped it back, got the rod out, sat on my

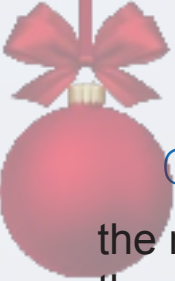
bed to tidy up my stuff and the other rod was away! I followed the same process of walking up the bank after picking up the rod and found it less problematic than the last fish. This also ran towards me after it was over the bar, there must be something out there that they are heading for and I look forward to finding it at some point.

This fish felt just like the previous one - up until the point it found the deep margins and took off, it suddenly felt heavy. It was hugging the bottom with a lot more power and weight than the last one. Once it was ready for the net. It was very kind and slipped in the first time.



22lb 1oz

I got the fish back in the water and walked back up to my bivvy to sort



the rod out, but before I even got through the door, the other rod that I had just put out was away again. I couldn't quite believe what was happening, nights like these on here are a thing of the past, or so I thought.

It was a complete repeat of the last capture, I'm starting to think they're looking for the deeper water in front of me.



11 lber

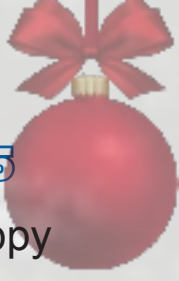
Wow, what an hour that's been, at one point, I had no rods in the water! By now it was 0645 and I was well in need of a cup of coffee, this was the point I realized that I'd forgotten the milk, oh well black coffee for me then.

The rain faded away and the odd break in the clouds started to appear. The temperature started to change as the wind moved to the north. We are pretty sheltered here. The day was spent chatting, topping up the swim, going for a walkabout and then back for some wine and food. After that, I did my evening video and headed over to Ian's swim for a look at the sunset.

Looking down the path I walked into his swim chatting about the sunset and taking photographs as I went.



17lber



Sunset

I didn't notice that he had a rod on the floor and the net in the water. I captured part of this on a video dairy, which is definitely worth a look at! Head over to my channel on YouTube.

A happy lan. We were still laughing about the footage that I recorded and for about 10 minutes thought I had accidentally deleted or pressed stop on the camera.

Amazing

Isn't nature absolutely amazing? After a good laugh and plenty of jokes about the last 25 minutes, I headed back to swim to settle down for the night.

I had to wait until 0330 for my next take, sometimes I wish you could choose the fish you catch, but alas unless you floater fishing, this isn't the case.

Baby carp and sleepy me

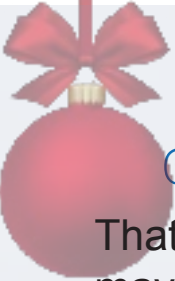
It's still a carp and it counts in the numbers game, and at least I've not blanked tonight, I'm happy really. I tried to take some photographs of the stars, but the camera wasn't

playing ball and it was pretty nippy outside, plus very damp, time to tuck myself back in that bag. This time it was the left-hand rod that rattled off, just after 0530. These carp certainly know where the boulders are situated in this lake as I could feel every knock and tap.

As before it charged towards me hoping to get under the overhanging branches of the trees either side of me, as far as I can make out.



15lb 6oz



That's better, a bit of an ugly fish, may have a little bit of Koi carp in its genes.

I'm going to try and get my head down again.

I managed to get to about 9am before the heat of the sunshine warmed the bivvy up too much.

Morning

It was most definitely coffee time. It would be nice to catch something in daylight hours, but I don't think it's going to happen this trip.

The day passed with no action and it was soon tea time, I had Chill Carne from Parsley Box. These are perfect for long session anglers who don't wish to carry a large cool box, as they are Shellife and can simply go on your bag, etc.



With the sun slowly going down, it was lovely sitting just watching the water and the tranquility of my surroundings.

I was on my bed watching Netflix and the right rod screamed into life (in daylight hours I might add). It was interesting to see where the carp went and how its behavior was in the fight. This was so I could learn what they'd been up to over the past 3 nights, as your never 100% sure in the darkness and this place is pitch blank.



17 lber on the dot

I was extremely happy with my daylight capture, it makes things so much easier. The rod was perfectly positioned in the dusky light and time to work out where I was in the episode I was watching.



To my amazement, I don't think that rod was out more than ten minutes and it was away again, It was quickly dispatched into the net.



10 lber

Ian came over and was in my swim for less than 2 minutes and his sounder box screamed into life. I quickly did my photos and headed

next door. He was still playing with the fish and it was fighting a lot harder than the last two I had. The rod was hooped over and he was pumping away but not gaining that much ground, but after about 10 minutes I slid the net under the fish for him

That will do nicely sir. He was well chuffed with that and hopefully, there are a few more heading our way that size, fingers crossed.

Just after 2130, Ian was on the phone, asking if I could pop off to take some more photos!

This trip is turning into a fantastic one, unless the cold snap tonight

puts them off, we should well be into a few more between us. My next take was just after midnight and was on the left rod. I'm starting to wonder if there's an issue with the right-hand rod, but not wishing to disturb the swim too much as I'm catching quite regularly, I'm opting to



20lb 1oz

wait and see. The fight was similar



to all the others and another lovely Airfield common slipped over the cord.

That's perfect. It looks like this is the general stamp of the fish down here at the moment. With the rod on the spot, I'd better get my head down, as you never know.

Morning

What an absolutely gorgeous morning, this is certainly what fishing is all about.

I'm in no rush today, the family is away and not due back until later this afternoon. So, before the wind picked up, I've rebaited, put 5oz leads on and blasted the rod out even further. Due to not catching during the day, over the last few day's. It would be completely pointless to not change something about in the hope of picking something up. My other option is to

put a bag on and flick it off the front of the point to my left. I've not seen anything there over the past day, but once the wind is blowing, I'm not going to be able to get a single hook bait back out that far again. We shall see where we go and what happens.

Nice Slope

Bit of a tricky slope to deal with on these damp mornings.

It's coming to the end of my trip and rebaiting the rods hasn't paid off. I didn't see any signs of carp, like we did the previous morning. I think the change in pressure and the drop in the dry temperature last night had put them off for a bit. All the stuff is on the barrow and ready for the off.

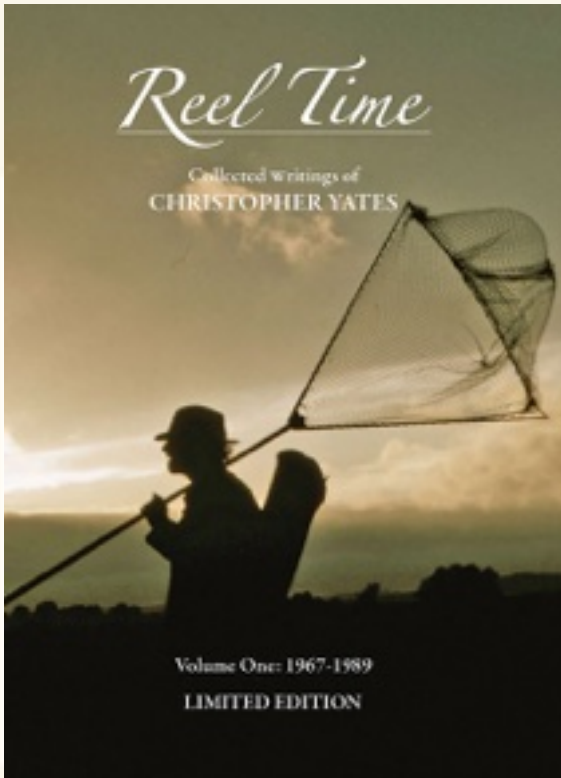
Until next time

Richard



Little Egret Press

A new book by Chris Yates!



Reel Time

Collected Writings of
Christopher Yates

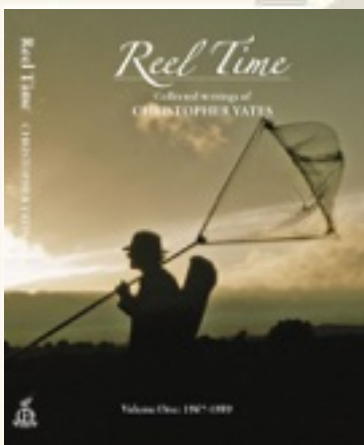
Volume One: 1967 - 1989

Gathered together within the pages of *Reel Time*, are 44 articles from the pen of the legendary Chris Yates. They range from 1967; the very first published article from Chris, through to 1989, when his passion for carp had subsided and a new found love for barbel burned brightly. Each article has been selected by the author, and are accompanied by many of his own wonderful photographs.

Stories of mysterious lakes, the iconic Redmire Pool, the capture of his then record carp, and compelling encounters with barbel abound.

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A Catch-Up with Henry Lennon - by Mark Carper





Cast (see what I did there..?!) your mind back to Talking Carp Issues 63 of May 2021 and you may recall a certain Mr Henry Lennon gracing the front cover... backed up with an interview regarding his role at Nash Tackle as their Marketing Coordinator and we discussed much about 'Life at Nash', his role and the opportunities he has to go out and catch carp, all in the name of "work..!!"

Well, skip forward to November this year and I took the opportunity to catch (I did it again..!) up with Henry once again as eighteen-months at Nash Tackle is a very long time and so much can happen....

...Mr Lennon, welcome back to our pages, it's good to catch up with you again and

with things at Nash changing quite often, I guess I should firstly ask if you are still doing the same role as when we previously spoke...?

HL: Hi Mark, pleasure to be invited back for another issue. My role is more or less the same as it was last time we spoke, just with a few more responsibilities and a new title as Creative Marketing Manager, but the meat of it all is still very similar. Working closely with Dan Yeomans, Alfie Willingale and Alan to decide on and execute the marketing strategy for the company.

TC: Last time, we kind of focused on your role at Nash and the Social Media side of the company but we did talk about the fishing aspect of the job and your time on

the bank, if only briefly. This time, I want to talk about what seems to have been a bit of a Red-Letter year in 2022, in terms of the trips you have been on and the Carp you have landed...

Now, I know you have recently spoke about this in your latest Nash "Off the Hook" Podcasts but for those that are hard-of-hearing, I would like to cover some of the fishing you have done across Europe and the more so the preparation and approach you take when tackling some of the big European venues you have visited... remind us again of the countries you have visited this year....

HL: Yes, it really has been a year to remember, and I feel so lucky to have



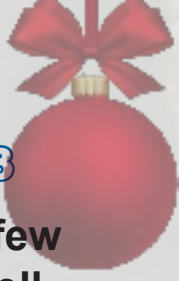
experienced it. In terms of the countries visited alone, I've been to Italy, France, Belgium, Netherlands, Slovenia, Germany and Spain... I think that's all of them! Some have been for filming shoots with work whilst some have been personal trips. I've loved them all and the majority of them have been extremely successful on the fishing front as well, which isn't always the case when it comes to Euro trips.

Besides this, I have had a pretty successful couple of campaigns in the UK. It really has been my greatest ever year of fishing and I highly doubt I will ever better it in terms of the number of incredible trips and big carp I've had.

TC: That's a pretty impressive list of trips but Spain must be up there with the best ever considering the size of the Carp you landed, a 77lb if I remember correctly AND the Spanish

record too (are you actually the official carp record holder now for Spain..?) and let me just say a huge congratulations on such a fantastic catch... but where do you go now in terms of PB's... Dave Levy has recently had an incredible session where he's had five Carp over 85lb, a 90+ and a colossal 101lb Carp, so do you look at that venue and say, "that's next for me!" or does the venue and catch mean more than simply chasing a new PB weight for you... and as for Dave, what the hell would you do in his shoes... where on earth does he go now for a PB or do you just say "that's it, I don't care anymore...!!"...?

HL: Spain was definitely up there with my favourite trips, probably alongside a trip to Germany where



I had a really old 50lb mirror that was the King of a cool park lake in Cologne, or the 'lads holiday' type trip I took to Lake Bled with two of the videographers from work, Barney and Brad. That was so much fun, not just because of the fishing, but because of the whole vibe of the trip. But it is hard to beat the feeling I had when I caught that 77lb mirror..!

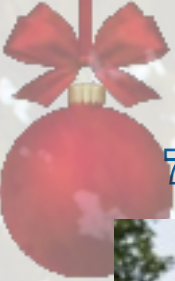
The fish has the Spanish record at a heavier weight, 84lb something I believe, so it was a bit down in weight. I'd caught the second biggest in the lake the day before at 68lb as well, so I was over-the-moon already at having smashed my PB, so to then land and even bigger carp with such a renowned stature in

Spain – yeah, it was a pretty special feeling.

What's next? It is a bit of pondering question for me after the year I have had. I wanted to get stuck into some more UK fishing next year, but a few tickets have failed to materialise for me so I am struggling to find somewhere that I will be able to fish and get the fire truly

burning. I have a few Euro targets as well – a canal 50lber is very high on my list. But in terms of besting my PB, this isn't ever something I chase. If that 77lber is the PB for the rest of my life then so be it, I couldn't care less! I am goal orientated in my fishing at times, but not so much in terms of beating overall PBs.





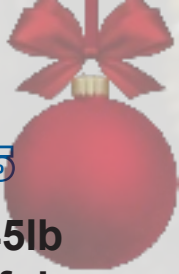
personal – hence all the Belgium posts. It certainly isn't my favourite country for carp fishing, but it is definitely up there when it comes to an easy access, easy-to-reach carp fishing location. You can get there in next to no time that it makes a long weekend worthwhile, and there is a nice variety of venues and carp to go at.

Picking venues is very much how you feel on the drive over. The more you go and the more you speak to people, the more pins end up in your phone with waters that are worth targeting and you sort of decide how you feel on the drive over in terms of where you want to go. That freedom and deciding where to go on a bit of a whim is what I do love about

TC: Well, 77lb isn't a bad PB to settle for is it...!! I gave you a bit of stick on your Instagram recently as it seemed the pictures of the Belgian Carp you caught were never ending and it was all Belgium this and Belgium that for a few weeks... so, was that a pleasure trip or

was it work and how did you decide on the locations...?

HL: HaHa yes I did see some abuse in my comments section! Yes, I've been to Belgium maybe 6 times this year – I think 4 of them were for work and the other 2 were



European fishing, it really does feel like an adventure.

Dan and I featured in a series of films in Belgium that will be on NashTV next Spring. Hopefully, people will enjoy it as much as we enjoyed making them.

TC: I look forward to watching... and to more of your posts about it..!!! ...and Bled, was that business or pleasure...?

HL: Bled was 100% a pleasure trip! Barney, Brad and I are all good mates at work and we wanted to go out to Bled together after how much we enjoyed filming there in the Autumn for The Social 4, which went live on Nash TV a few weeks ago.

We were away for 8 days, of which 3 were spent fishing

– the rest was spent eating, drinking, swimming and just having the best time in one of the most beautiful places on Earth. I cannot recommend Bled enough. Even with pretty limited fishing time, we did manage to get amongst them. We all caught, Brad

had a new PB at 45lb and I have a handful over 40 up to 57lb. That 57lb was a sick carp – we caught it from the island, swimming out our rigs and hand placing them on a bar about 40 yards out. You would get the bites in a matter of minutes, playing the fish in





between all the tourists and boats before taking photos in amongst everyone at the steps of the Church – proper Summer vibes!

TC: Wow, sounds an incredible way to spend a holiday and Bled is definitely a

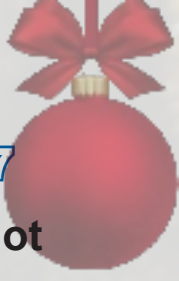
*special place..!
Jumping back to the Spanish trip, I know that you were fishing with Samir (and Claire), so did you leave them to organise that or did you have plans of your own... and did any of it involve Jet Skis or is that now well and truly*

*confined to history...
HaHaHa...?*

HL: HaHaHa no jet skis this time – they looked far too much of a pain as opposed to a tool that would aid your angling.

It was a bit of both with organising the trip between Samir and me. I know about a lot of the venues in Spain through Samir, as I speak to him on the phone about once a week with the work I do at Nash. So, I said the venues I was interested in fishing, we came up with a plan and then I left it to him to sort the licenses as that is a proper minefield in Spain!

TC: Now we have established the work and pleasure aspects and the locations, can you walk us through the preparation you go through and how much



that differs from your 'usual' UK fishing, especially in comparison to fishing at Royston as you mentioned last time, this was one of your favourite venues at home...?

HL: Jesus it's a bit different to fishing Royston! In typical Henry fashion, I really fucked up my timing when it came to prepping for this – I was over in Frankfurt the day before for our European tradeshow and I had driven over to squeeze in a couple of nights of Belgium canal fishing. I missed my Eurotunnel home and was going to be delayed by 10 hours to get the next one, which would've meant I had about 3 hours to flip the van. However, I managed to hide my boarding card and blag my way onto an earlier

crossing (still not sure how I got away with that one!) and got back to the office where all my gear is, at around 8pm.

I had to leave at 7am to get my ferry because (due to another Henry fuck up!), my departure location was actually Plymouth and not Portsmouth! So, I had a very short window to change my gear over from 'Belgium Canal Fishing' to 'Extreme Public Water Fishing'. Thankfully, I have different set-ups

ready to go, so a lot of it just involved unloading the van with one set up and loading it with another. But there is still the tedious job of refilling tackle boxes, checking lifejackets and boats, charging batteries, filling the van with bait. It takes quite a long time and I seem to have spent half my life this year prepping gear and loading vans!

TC: HaHaHa.. So, organisation and planning need a bit of practice then..??!! In terms of Carping



ability, how much does fishing on European 'Public Waters' differ from fishing the UK Commercials...?

HL: Honestly, it is a completely different world. Just the boat aspect is enough to add a huge different aspect to the angling, but so is the way the fish behave. They are much more natural in Europe, so you can get away with a lot more in terms of presentations, but it is a much bigger challenge in getting a rig to the spot where the carp are.

I see it like this: in the UK, my thought process is 'How can I trick this carp into sucking in my hookbait?'. In big European public waters, my mindset is 'How can I get a rig to where the carp are?'. At times, there are a lot of similarities, but

there are also times when it feels like you are fishing for an entirely different animal.

TC: ...and in terms of gear, the same question...?

HL: In Europe, I

care less about concealment and more about strength and reliability, whereas it is the other way around in the UK. Not to say that I disregard any of those elements completely in any scenario, but my





foremost thought changes depending on the type of angling I am doing.

TC: ...and finally, Rigs..! What do you prefer, why and how do you set them up in terms of materials, tweaks etc, you know, what are your "Rig Secrets"...?

HL: My rig secret for this year is... use 'Claw' hooks!! They are so unbelievably good that they are now the only pattern I use, whether that be in Flota Claw or standard Claw. Whether it is the beaked point or the angle bends, I'm not sure, but once they are in, they just don't seem to come out. They are dead sharp too, probably the sharpest in the Nash range – I love them.

I pretty much use Slip Ronnie's for all

my fishing now, and just beef them up if I ever need to. Rigs are pretty low down on my thought process in carp fishing now that I have something I am super confident in.

TC: Funny you should mention the 'Claw' as I

changed to that pattern back in November 2021 after having some good fish and some proper battles landing them in heavy weed and snags and that pattern of hook was epic... I tend to use a "Ronnie" Setup but with a Waffer so the hook is laying





flat.. I then add a tiny Nash Tungsten Hook Bead between the first and second bend (from the point) and the holds are absolutely mega..!!!

Anyway, that's enough of me giving you ideas.... How much time is spent planning these 'Public Water' trips given the lack of facilities etc...?

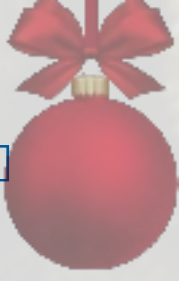
HL: Mate, I just go feral! Don't care about showering, I

s%*t in the woods, fuck it! You're in the wilderness and you're hunting. If you are going to be worried about getting a bit dirty then this isn't the game or venues for you!

TC: Obviously, Nash Tackle are all over Europe so do you use this to your advantage in terms of 'inside-information', 'hot-spots', 'pre-baiting' etc. or do you prefer to 'go-it-alone' so to speak...?

HL: Of course, I would be stupid not to! Not so much pre-baiting or specific spots, but more for 'pins', actual venues that are worth looking at. My maps app on my phone is littered with red dots that are worth looking at. I will never get around to going to them all, but whenever one of our Euro boys does well and tells me about a venue, I put it in my phone. You never know when it may come in handy. It is nice to fish with them too, like I did with Samir, but I do also love just road tripping on my own in Europe – nothing beats that sense of freedom and adventure, you can't get it in any other way in the modern Western world in my opinion.

TC: For those that have not fished outside



of the UK before what would you recommend, should they try a Canal in Belgium or one of the Public Waters of France and Spain or would you say they should maybe try out a few smaller commercials first.. or should they just load their gear, pick a spot on the map and go for

it...?

HL: I would probably recommend a commercial for your first one, just to get an understanding for fishing for really big carp. If you are a bit more experienced, then Belgian canals or even the French public waters. The

only thing I would be aware of is 1) boat work and 2) the effort required to fish public lakes/canals.

Boat work isn't super difficult, but it does take time to get to grips with, so just be aware of that if you are doing it for the first time and public waters are going to require a lot of physical effort, so if you are after a relaxing holiday of beers and carp in the sun, then a commercial venue is probably the better choice.

TC: In terms of Public Waters, say for example a stretch of Belgian Canal (I know you have a bit of experience on these..! HaHaHa), are there any 'obvious' issues UK anglers should be aware of and make plans to avoid or be prepared for...?



HL: Not for Belgian canals, not the smaller ones. If you are fishing the Albert, for instances, then yeah, be prepared to fish with 14oz leads, redropping rigs all the time, super stiff hook links to deal with the wash of the boats – this is a ballbreaker when you first do it! But if you are fishing a small, clear Belgian canal, it is very akin to English fishing and you won't feel technically out of your depth if you are a half-decent angler. Just keep walking until you find carp and lay a trap – simple!

Just remember to have the right license! As they have different licenses for different regions in Belgium.

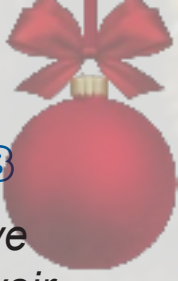
TC: When you are struggling to catch

on say a French Commercial for example, you are limited to maybe just a swim change, but on Public Waters you can up-bivvy and find a whole other water to fish, or in the case of a River or Canal, you can move a few yards or even miles along the

bank. So, what's your immediate thoughts in this situation and what do you change first... or do you send up the Drone and then decide...!?

HL: Let's take a Belgian canal for example. A clear canal, a couple





of miles long, with maybe 60-80 carp on it. If you do not feel close to a bite, you are in the wrong spot, and you need to walk until you find carp again and you can get a rig in front of fish. Canals require a lot of walking – this is their biggest challenge!

For big French inland seas, I won't lie – drones are useful! I don't have 10 years to learn about fish movements, I have a couple of days. I am not embarrassed to say that in these situations, I will use a drone to help me locate carp.

For commercials, if I am in a swim and there are no carp in front of me, I will still fish to the very best of my ability as you never know when they could turn up. These fish

are usually quite pressured too, and pressured carp do weird shit – they could all of a sudden decide that they don't like the location they are in and show up on you en masse, so you best have your spots perfect for when that happens!

TC: I know you have fished a UK Reservoir this year and had some good success on that too, so has this run of catches kept going since your returned from your last European trip...?

HL: Sadly not – it ended in early June after I got caught



by the park ranger who kicked me off and I haven't been back since. It was fun whilst it lasted – big pit, low stock, uncaught carp, mystery – the best that the UK can offer in my eyes!

Since then, I have done a bit of river fishing, caught my target fish from my club water at 42lb, had a big hit of fish from Horseshoe, the biggun from a day ticket venue off the top... despite my fishing being dominated by Europe this year, I have also probably had my best season of UK fishing too!

TC: Is there one 'thing' that you can identify that lead to your recent success of good catches, including the Spanish seventy, on so many different waters in different Countries or

was it a combination of things... or just luck...?

HL: It was a mindset change. After working at Nash and constantly being amongst really good anglers, you start to see what works really well for people and what makes them successful. You also see what works against them.

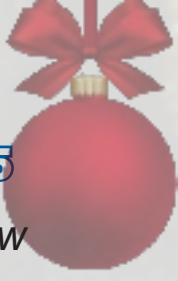
This year, I've consciously made the decision to not put effort into something for the sake of it because you think it makes your fishing more 'worthy' – apply effort in the areas that matter, but anything after that will simply slow you down and cost you fish. Why sit out in the boat for hours at night listening for shows if you already have a pretty good idea of where the fish are?

Get a rod on them as quickly as you can! Fish smart, fish effectively and fish quickly – this has accounted for a lot of fish for me this year. Oh, and our new Nash Particle Range!!

TC: ...and what's next for you in terms of your Carping. Do you have plans for some Winter fishing or do you take some time out and have you started planning trips for 2023 yet...?

HL: I've got one last target for the year that I am currently trying to complete – catch a UK river 20. I've probably had close to a hundred UK river Carp now, but never a 20, so I am really keen for that.

After that, I haven't thought loads about next year. I normally do it over Christmas



period. There're a few tickets I would love to get which would mean my fishing is more UK focused for 2023, but to be honest, I've been let down on a few of them and may not get them. If I don't get them, then my big aim for next year is a canal 50 for Europe.

*TC: ...and finally, work, remember that..??!
What is your work schedule looking like seeing how there is a load of new gear to come from the Nash stable... I for one, am firmly focused on the Camo version of the Block House as this must be the best session bivvy I have ever owned, so what have you got your eye on that's due to be released...?*

HL: Yes, work is as busy as ever! It really is crazy at Nash at

times – work hard, play hard comes to mind. You could probably tell from the length of time it took me to do this interview that I have been under it at work the last couple of weeks. So, work will continue to be as crazy and intense as ever, but that's how we like it!

For the Camo Blockhouse, that'll be Spring 2023... plenty of work to be done between now and then!!

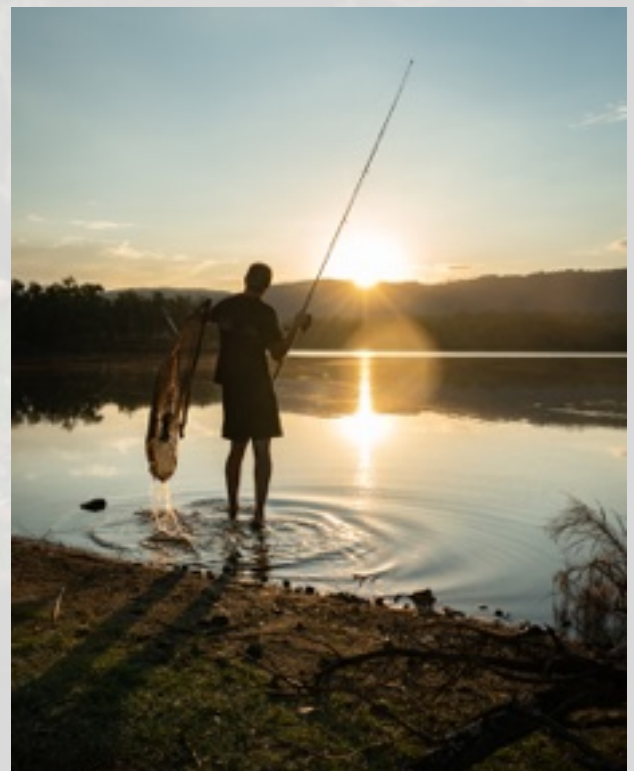
TC: Once again, it was pleasure to chat and hopefully we get chance to have a beer at Carp Den Bosch in Holland in January or failing that at the

Northern Carp Show in Manchester in February..!

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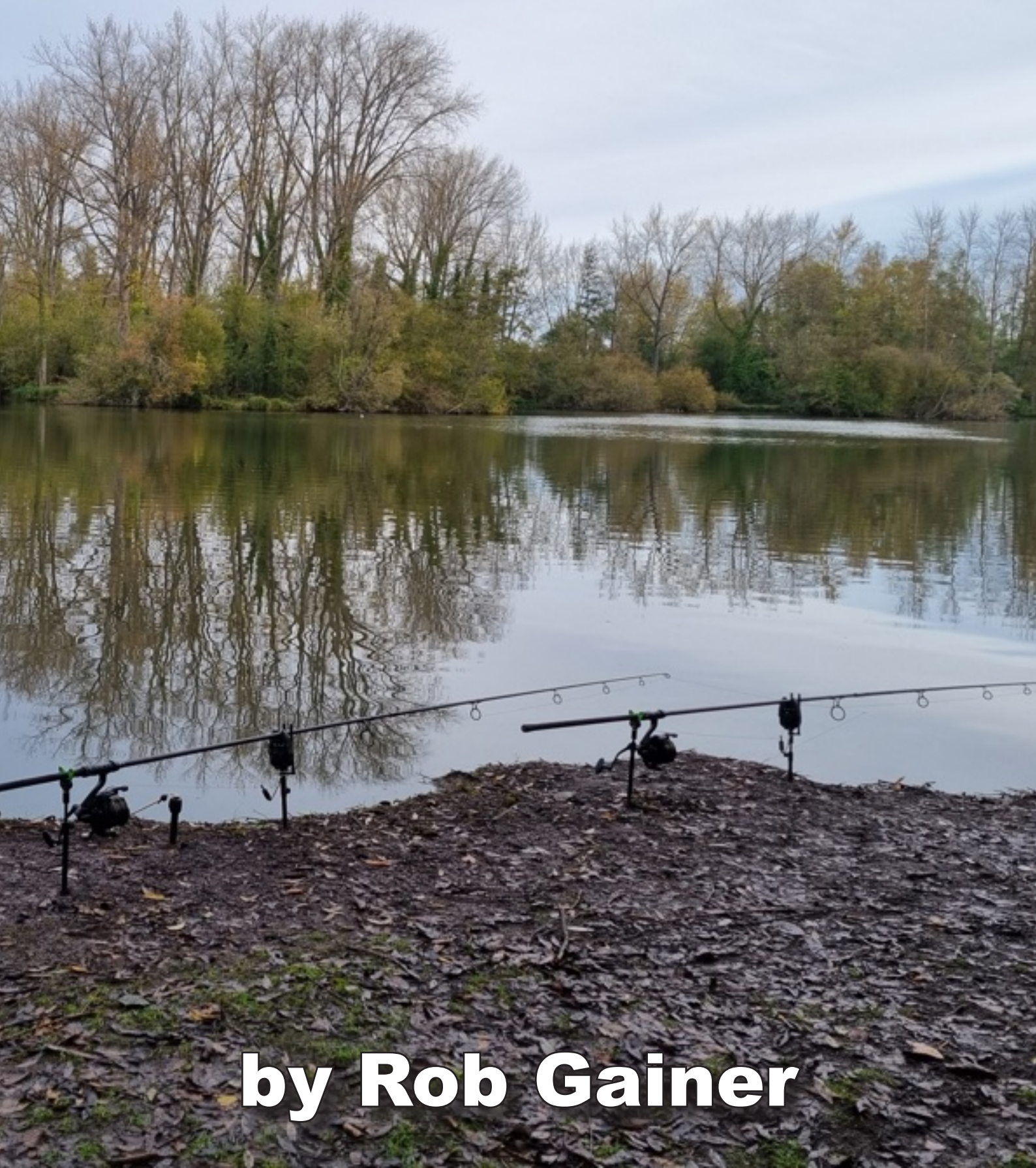


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**ALL YEAR ROUND
SINCE 1986**

A weekend in France



by Rob Gainer

A weekend in France

88

Most people associate French trips with a week long stay or sometimes even longer if you're lucky, However, after speaking with a fellow Nutrabaits French team member Greg I had the opportunity to join him for a session on one of his local waters for a weekend at the start of November. With no other real trips or sessions planned I jumped at the chance and got planning the trip.

Leaving work on the Thursday with just over an 18 hour and 737 mile round trip ahead of me, I set off with the Eurotunnel crossing booked for 2am getting me into France very early hours of the Friday morning. Arriving at the lake a couple of hours before first light and not meeting Greg until 7.30am I had a quick lap of the lake in the pitch

black and then got my head down in the van for a couple of hours after the long journey.

The lake itself is roughly 25 acres with a stock of around 500 fish. It has everything you could want as a carp angler with massive snaggy areas, islands, pads, arms of water off the main body, and out of bounds areas. I could only describe it as a jungle, and after seeing some of Gregs captures over the previous months I was more than excited to get the rods out. The lake is usually days only fishing, but it is open a few weekends a year for night fishing, hence the short 48 hour session, as that's all the rules allowed us to fish for.

Once Greg had joined me in the car park and the sun was beginning to rise, we left the gear in the van and had a wander around the lake. As we walked into the peg it was obvious, we were on fish straight away. To the right of the peg was a big out of bounds area filled with pads and on the entrance to the bay a massive sunken dead snaggy tree that had fallen in. There was a large group of fish fizzing just on the





entrance of the out of bounds area and within 5 minutes we saw 5 shows in the bay itself. This was enough for me, and we were quickly back at the car loading the barrows up.

Walking back into the swim I suggested a coin toss for sides as it was obvious the bulk of the fish was on the right-hand side. Greg kindly let me have the right-hand side as I had travelled all this way. I wasted no time and quickly flicked two rods out to the fizzing fish on the entrance of the bay with my left-hand rod at 12 wraps and my right-hand rod at 13 wraps. My go to 12mm pineapple and n-butyric pop ups on both rods and a scattering of the soon to be released Trigga solubles over the top.

Base camp was then set up and time to sit back and relax, secretly hoping for a quick bite as there were still signs of fish feeding. Greg, on the left of the swim, clipped his two rods

up to either corner of the island directly opposite us, and with no signs of activity on his side he chucked two 12mm pink plum and caproic pop ups out with a very small handful of Trigga boilies with the throwing stick over the top.

No sooner had he clipped his left-hand bobbin on, and he was away. First one of the trip safely in the net, a lovely clean low 20 mirror, and the rod back out on the spot. Greg then informed me the lake had been



A weekend in France

90



fishing relatively hard with only 1 fish out that week up to us arriving and it was one of the smaller residents at around 15lb. This wasn't the news I was hoping for after travelling all that way, but no sooner had we done pics of his first fish the same rod was away, this time with a bigger fish of around 28/29lb.

With activity and signs of feeding on my side of the peg I was starting to get itchy feet as felt like something should have happened by now. Contemplating a change of tactic two more fish showed in the out of bounds area 30 yards down from where my rods were positioned. About to reel my left hand rod in for a reposition, and Greg was once again bent into another fish. Three

fish in quick succession on all 12mm plum and caproic pop ups was enough for me to reel in both rods and make the switch. The side I was fishing was quite snaggy and had a fair few overhead trees making casting to the areas I wanted to pretty much impossible and with bait boats being banned it was time to get back to the van and get the Captor bait pole out. Knowing the size

of the lake I also brought my bike with me making trips back to the van and round the opposite bank to bait up very quick!

Back in the swim, both rods now on 12mm plum and caproic and the baiting pole at the ready. I made a simple mix up to put in the spoon of the pole along with my hook bait which consisted of crumbed Trigga boilie, 4mm Trigga pellet and a healthy dose of Trigga liquid food. The right-hand rod was shipped out closer to the out of bounds area tight up to a snag right on the entrance of the bay at roughly 10 wraps out, and the left-hand rod was flicked back out to the patches of fizzing now with the change of hook bait.



No sooner had I shipped the baiting pole back, the right-hand rod pulled up tight and we were away, a scraper 20 but I was off the mark and could finally relax. Gregs side of the swim had now gone dead, and after making the switch to using the baiting pole to get closer to the showing fish it started to kick off on my side of the swim.

What happened next I could only have dreamed of as my second bite was a much bigger fish, picking up the rod and instantly getting flat rodded as the fish took line off a tight clutch it ploughed down into the out of bounds area and went around a metal pole sticking out the water, luckily the 50lb snag leader held strong and after a hairy battle under the rod tip and through multiple sets of pads the fish was in the net. Instantly I knew it was a big fish, lifting the net up I just turned to Greg and said that is a donkey!

A new PB of 44lb 2oz and I was over the moon, it had only just gone dinner on the Friday



and the job was complete making the long journey and effort worth it. 5 fish between us by dinner and no one else on the lake had caught anything either. A third fish for myself shortly followed, being another low 20, then the actioned quietened down for the rest of the afternoon and I got my head down for some well-deserved rest and catch up on sleep.

It was apparent the fish were having short feeding spells as over the session we would get 3 or 4 quick bites all within an hour feeding spell, then it would go quiet for a couple of hours. With this in mind I got my 3rd rod set up ready with a fresh rig and hook bait on so I could maximise my chances with time being against us I wanted to



make the most of the short session and feeding spells.

Throughout the first night I managed another 5 carp before first light on the 2nd day with 2 x 29lb+, a 31lb and a 33lb taking my tally to 8 fish and we weren't even 24 hours into the session. By now I had got into a routine, 3 or 4 fresh rigs tied up with hook baits on ready to go, baiting pole part assembled at the side of the swim ready to ship out and the bait mix prepped and ready to go after each bite. Filling the spoon with crumb and pellet between each bite and catapulting a couple of handfuls of Trigga solubles over the top every hour seemed to keep the bites coming throughout the session.

The final 24 hours carried on like the first and by the Sunday morning I was on 19 bites with 19 fish landed. Waking up Sunday morning it was apparent the weather had changed, the wind had swung round, heavy rain was forecast, and the temperatures had dropped. Looking unlikely for anymore bites as the action had slowed up I made the decision to have a slow pack down slightly earlier than I had planned to ensure I had enough time for some food and to get to

the Eurotunnel with time to spare. Buzzing with how the session turned out I couldn't thank Greg enough for all his help, advice and effort in making this trip happen for me, and of course, letting me have the right-hand side of the swim! As they say, effort equals rewards and some people would question why you'd travel all the way to France for 2 nights fishing, but ending up with 19 fish, a new PB of 44lb 2oz, numerous 30lb+ fish and a lot of back up 20s id say it paid off! Also, it pays to listen to local advice and not go in with a predetermined plan or mindset as it showed the switch to a hook bait I have never used was all it took to flip the switch for my session!

Tight lines

Rob.





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By Anthony Wood



Reviews

In the UK anglers seem to be obsessed with hard baits both as freebies and as the hookbait whereas in Europe the anglers have for a long time now seen the advantage to softer baits.

If you have ever dabbled in making your own fishing baits then you will more than likely heard of FeedStimulants who are based in the Netherlands, they have a reputation for providing some of the best bait making ingredients available on the market and won't stock an ingredient if it doesn't meet their standards.

They have recently branched out into making ready made baits and they are using those same high quality ingredients to make some exceptional bait ranges.

These baits are made on a high nutritional value base (HNV) which has a minimum of 30% protein and a high moisture level. They have been designed in-house to last between 12-24 hours in the water where they will leak off attractors and food signals for at least 24 hours.

The boilies aren't the hard ones we are used to in the UK they have a softness due to the high levels of water-soluble ingredients in them, yet they are still firm enough to withstand nuisance fish.





There are currently two flavours in the range which are “Insect Cream” which has ingredients such as high quality defatted black soldier fly meal, silkworm meal and insect hydro powder. I have used this range and it has caught me carp but as I only fish small carp waters I have included pictures from some of the anglers who fish the big fish waters.

The other flavour in the is “Seafood Cocktail” (I haven’t used these but have seen some amazing fish caught on them) which is again based on a HNV base mix with a high level of soluble ingredients and is designed to last in the water and leak attractors and stimulants exactly the same as the other boilie range.

However, the Seafood Cocktail range has several proven fish catching ingredients such as CPSP90 pre-digested fish meal and shrimp, krill and plankton-calanus hydros making a delicious seafood cocktail for the fish to enjoy.

There are some great hookbaits to compliment the range which include pop ups, hard hookbaits, hard wafers and paste which all add up to an awesome armoury for any angler.

You can find high quality bait making ingredients and the boilie ranges on their website www.feedstim.com. You can also follow them on their Facebook page www.facebook.com/feedstimulants.com.





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Near enough all anglers have a knife in their fishing bag whether they use it to cut up bait or cut their line or any other number of reasons. The problem is that the knife usually ends up blunt or rusty due to lack of care as it just gets a quick wipe (if it's lucky) and tossed back in the bag.

There is a small family run company called Polymath Products that produce some brilliant products for camping, survival, etc but I want to concentrate on their newest product the "Compact Blade Care Kit" which I think is absolutely fantastic.

If you have thought of knife sharpening before you will probably have imagined either the pocket sharpening tools that are really bad for your blade and just strip metal from the knife blade to get it sharp again or big massive whetstones that would take up loads of room in your tackle bag if you decided to carry one.





This is where the Compact Blade Care Kit comes in. You can see that there has been a lot of thought put into this kit as soon as you open the tin (which is the same size as an Altoids tin!!!) and see the superb contents that are inside.

On the lid of the tin itself there is an electroplated #1000 grit diamond surface which is a strong and durable general sharpening surface which can also be used like a puck sharpener for axes.

Inside the tin there is a three inch #600 grit sharpening whetstone which is perfect for correcting nicks and dings that the blade of your fishing knife may pick up during usage, there is a little tub of blade balm which provides protection from rust and can also weatherproof wood and leather, a small bottle of blade oil which is used as honing oil, lubricant or as a protective layer to your blade and finally there is a small cloth which is perfect for cleaning your knife and also applying the balm or oil.

Find this brilliant little kit on Amazon or on the Polymath Products website www.polymathproducts.co.uk



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Consultant Dale Glover doesn't only take some stunning photos but he also catches some stunning fish here is one of his latest captures in all her glory. Dale fished a Peach and sour cream wafter over matching bottoms baits along with some oily chicken.

Our man Neil Messenger still works in the factory rolling our baits he also still has a knack of catching 40lbs+ carp! N-blend being the down fall of this one. Neil's managed three 40lbs fish in two sessions this one nearly breaking the 50lbs barrier at 49lbs.





Customer Nigel Fisher with a rather rotund 30lbs 2oz mirror caught using Supa fruit.

Richard Stokes got in contact after a recent trip to France which saw him have this lovely mirror of 41lbs using Cold Water Green Beast.



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**Send your articles and catch reports by
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