



Talking Carp

Magazine

Issue 97
March 2024



Zigs
Tim Childs

A Quick Trip
Rob Gainer

Personal Journey
Joanne Barlow



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Hello and welcome to issue 97!

As you are reading this the Snowdrops and Daffodils are wakening, Spring is around the corner and my garden grass wants cutting already!!

Of course Spring time means one thing and one thing only to us anglers... the carp will be waking up and get ready for some big feeds. Now if there is one thing that can certainly kick start your year... it's a change of tactics if you are =not doing so.. and that is zig fishing! Inside this issue Tim Childs talks zig fishing, and how productive it can be all year round. Think about it... the fish are awake, and they are looking for every degree of warmth they can find... and that's always in the upper layers as the sun starts to shine so why wouldn't you put a bait in front of their nose?

Makes perfect sense to me.

Also in this issue we welcome Scotland international Joanne Barlow as she talks about her incredible journey into carp fishing.

Add to the mix our regular Scott Geezer Grant continuing his amazing exploits down in sunny Essex... and we have a *STOP PRESS* as we break news of the Nutrabaits team landing over a ton of carp in one session!!

All this plus more... only in your FREE Talking Carp magazine.

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When One Door Shuts, Another Door Opens



by Scott Grant

A week or so after I returned from my diving holiday in Egypt, I started to go through my messages from bait companies that I received whilst I was away. The first message I received was from Matt Hart owner of the newly formed Halo Baits. Now I know Matt and what a good angler he is, so I knew the bait would be good. I gave Matt a call which turned out to be a very productive meeting and I agreed to join the team.

Personally, for me it was a big challenge as I had one million percent confidence in my previous bait company, who unfortunately has stopped trading. But as the saying goes when one door shuts, another door opens.

Halo Baits only do two baits, a fishmeal called the BMX and a milk protein called The Nut. I ordered some of each for my next trip, and if the water temperature is still in the teens, I will be giving the BMX its first runout, it is a fishmeal that smells so nice and its weird as just by smelling it you know it is a good bait. The matching liquids are quality as are the pop ups and wafers. Matt really has put his heart and soul into producing the very best bait that he can. I really liked the skunkz range of pop ups again with their unique flavour combination.

My first session soon came around, it was mid-November as usual I had prepared all my bait and made sure everything was charged and ready to go. I arrived at The Dell on a Monday morning, it had been raining for most of the night and it was still coming down. I grabbed a bucket from my van and walked around the lake. There were only two other anglers on and they were fishing the lodge bank. The wind was a strong South Westerly but the temperature was up in double figures. I arrived at a swim that I am very familiar with, I sat on my bucket with the rain still coming down watching the water. I did not have to wait long before I saw a fish show, which was enough for me I know the swim I know the spots and where the fish showed was in the area of my middle rod.

I dropped the bucket in the swim and made my way back to my van, but before I was going to unload all my gear, I waited for the rain to stop. It

was around 10:30 when the rain passed and Ben one of the on-site bailiffs was kind enough to let me load the trailer and he would take my gear round with the quad. What a touch and very much appreciated. I got everything set up as quickly as I could, I checked the weather again and the wind was getting stronger up to 30mph, but then dropping right off later this afternoon.

As I mentioned earlier it was my first time using the bait and i must admit I was apprehensive, but as long as I apply myself, I am sure the bait will speak for itself. Rig wise I kept everything the same Ronnie rigs on all rods but instead of wafers I would be using matching BMX pop ups. All the rods would be boated out, this keeps the disturbance to a minimum and I can fish the same spot every time and with a generous helping of crushed, whole mixed sized boilies and some chillie hemp. I used small pva bags of crumb and foam nuggets to make sure the hook bait would be presented as the weed is still evident and dying off in places and drifting all about. It was not until 3pm that I managed to get the rods out, and then the kettle went on.



Before I knew it, darkness fell and so did the temperature, so it was time to relax in the bivvy and sort some dinner out. I had a nice relaxing evening and dropped off to sleep just after 11pm. I was rudely awoken in the early hours by the poxy swans!!! They decided to start foraging around at my rod tips picking my lines up in the process. I was not a happy man and after shooing them off I tried to go back to sleep but it felt impossible. I got up got dressed and put the kettle on. I looked at my phone and it was a little after 06:00 o'clock. It was still dark and the wind was still pushing into me but nowhere near as





strong as yesterday. As the sun came up the lake looked stunning, the mist was dancing across the surface and the bird life had woken up and was in full swing. This is definitely the best time to be up and awake, nature is a beautiful thing that most people take for granted.

It was hard to see if any fish were showing, but I sat there watching the water anyway, drinking copious amounts of coffee. Just before 09:00 o'clock the middle alarm gave a single bleep, I went to the rod and as I was looking at the rod, the braid tightened and a fish was on, it all

happened in a split second, I lifted the rod and the fish was already taking braid, after a few seconds I managed to slow the fish down but then everything went solid, the fish had found a weed-bed!! I put the rod in the rest and loosened the clutch, it was some 40 minutes later that the fish decided to make a run for it, as the fish started taking line I lifted the rod as high as I could possibly get it, and after a few seconds I managed to get the fish above the weed where it broke the surface for the first time, from then on in it was a case of keeping a tight line and guiding the fish into the waiting net.

With the fish finally in the net I had a sneaky peak and recognised the fish straight away my old friend "Two Face". I secured the net and gave Mick a shout who was fishing in the swim next door. He came straight round, I zeroed the digital and with the fish in the sling it was time for her weigh in, Mick done the honours and she went 41lb 5oz, I was elated my first fish on the new bait and it is a forty pounder, it does not get much better than that. Mick took cracking photos I then treated and returned the fish. I managed to get the rod rebaited and straight back out to the spot with a generous helping of bait, just before the rain started to come down, and it rained until





4pm that afternoon. The wind was West/South Westerly so it was bang on for this swim and the pressure was 1001 so the conditions were perfect. Tonight's temperature is forecast to be 10oc and the water temperature is 11.5 degrees all in all a good time to be on the bank.

I sent a couple of photos to Matt at Halo baits with a short text, "do you like my first fish" he called me straight away, he was as happy as me, it must be a great feeling knowing that the bait you made caught that fish, well you know what I mean. It's more like teamwork with me doing all the hard

graft.

Let us hope there is more to come, I am sure there will be, now my confidence is back up there. As the saying goes the skies the limit. Unfortunately, even when you think the conditions are perfect the fish have other ideas, much to my surprise nothing happened throughout the night, oh I forgot the only action was the swans driving me mad yet again!!

I woke up bright and early on Wednesday morning It was forecast to be a bright and sunny day, I sat there doing my morning ritual drinking a coffee watching the water. I saw a couple of fish show but they had pushed out from me and were showing in front of the swim opposite. Autumn can be a tricky time, but the plus side is the fish are big. Early afternoon I reeled the rods in to give the swim a rest and go for a much-needed shower.

After a shower I had a little wander to stretch my legs and have a chat with the lads, I got back just before dark and managed to get the baits out on their chosen spots, I then settled down for the



evening. It got to 6pm and I was ready for some dinner, I warmed up my favourite meal chillie and pasta, which went down a treat. It was quiet into the evening and I fell asleep around midnight, but was rudely awoken at 0500 with a single bleep on the middle rod, I jumped out the bag and put my trousers on slipped into my crocs and was out the door, at first I thought it was the swans but they were nowhere to be seen, my heart started to race and even though it was cold I couldn't feel it due to the adrenalin pumping through my body.



I stood poised by the rods for the next 30 minutes but nothing happened.

Deflated I got undressed and back into bed but could not get back to sleep as much as I tried, so it was up get dressed and get the kettle on. The wind had turned North Easterly and once back outside I could feel the difference in the air, I checked the weather app and it is predicted to be 8oc throughout the day and 6oc at night that is a big drop from the previous 2 days and will surely have an impact. As the sun came up, I sat watching the water and to my surprise the fish did not show. Come midday and with nothing seen I decided to cut my losses and pack up. I could have squeezed another night in but it's better to save it when it



actually needed. I was all packed up by 3pm, Jake came round in the quad and trailered my gear back to my van, which was much appreciated, I do not know about everyone else but when I pack up to go home, I feel



completely knackered and yet I have done nothing, except sit drinking coffee or tea watching the water.

But it is the end of a magical session for me my first fish on the new bait and

it is a banger, I was back over the lake the following month and it turned out to be another good session. All will be revealed in next month's issue.

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

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Stay safe and remember its only fishing.

Scott “Geezer” Grant





Zigs... An Acquired Taste



By Tim Childs



When it comes to tactics and tactics to outwit our chosen quarry, there are a whole array of ways to tempt those lovely carp into our landing nets. That been said on some venues and at certain times of the year one or two methods really do stand out from the crowd as being deadly, and when fished correctly can be the only realistic way to catch carp with any consistency.

Zig fishing in my opinion is one such method, and a bit like Marmite, is loved by some, misunderstood by others and bizarrely even hated by a few.

Whilst it would appear just another tactic of catching carp, of which of course it is, for some reason I still speak to anglers that have yet to try the method. Its now over 20 years since I caught my first purposely caught zig carp and over 2 decades now consider it one of my favourite methods to use. So, what is it that makes this tactic divide some anglers so much? Well I suspect it's simply a case of some people's reluctance to ? e the method a serious go. By that I don't just mean sticking your third or fourth rod out in the vane hope of a carp bumping into your suspended hook bait.

No, I mean seriously searching out those depth layers at certain times of the year. Hunting down those carp that we know spend so much if the lives off the bottom in the mid and upper parts of the water. I've met a couple of people over the last couple of years that despite seeing with their own



eyes just how good zig fishing can be they still would rather fish on the bottom, often blanking time and time again.

It's really about having an open mind to try something new and perhaps try a method that at times may seem a little confusing. To be honest though that can be said for a lot of tactics and methods, which are perhaps not regularly used, whether that be floater fishing, chods or even solid PVA bags. Now like any method there can be the negative side of zig fishing, its a little fiddly at first and of course there's always the odd possibility of foul hooking carp now and again or even loosing them. Personally, for me though the plus benefits far outweigh the negatives and get the method right and you can achieve superb results.



For me my early experiences with zig fishing were way back just after the turn of the millennium. Circa 2001-2004 to be precise.

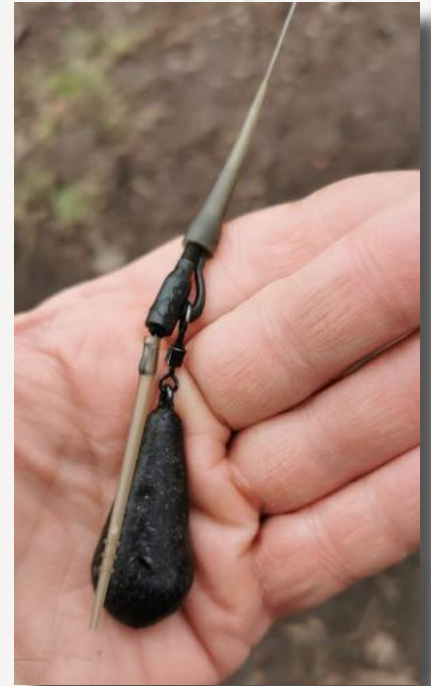
At the time I was a regular at Linear Fisheries in Oxfordshire and enjoyed some early success with a number of 30lb plus carp caught from across the complex. Most of my earlier captures had fallen in the winters and early spring months and it wasn't until the warmer weather around May of one particular year that I really got to see just how effective fishing 'off the bottom' could be. One of my favourite venues at the time was Hardwick Smiths and back then it contained a number of lovely heavily plated mirrors to well over 35lb, with one or two pushing close to 40lb, including the much sort after 'Jordan' , a big chesty 35lb plus fully scaled mirror that I had luckily managed to catch on

bottom baits twice in successive years. As you can imagine, way back then fish of that quality attracted a number of very accomplished and well known anglers.

People like, Frank Warwick, Martin Clarke, Nick Helleur, Ian Poole and Jon Finch were regularly seen on the banks of Hardwick chasing those old scale perfect mirror carp.

It was around this period on one particular early summers day that a very young, at the time Jon Finch showed me just how effective zigs can be, by landing 6 lovely carp in just a couple of hours. Fishing long links just under the surface and if I remember correctly small pieces of cork hook baits. My rods baited with baits fished on the lakebed remained silent during this time and despite a half hearted attempt that day to follow Jon's lead, I failed miserably. The method was starting to become popular back then with the crème de la

crème in the big carp game using the tactic, and waters like Linch Hills, Christchurch lake, and the waters on the Linear ticket were to become the target for many up and coming zig anglers over the next few seasons.



It was an exciting and pivotal period in my own angling, fishing in and around Oxfordshire rubbing shoulders with some top class anglers you couldn't help but learn a few tricks along the way. From then on I made sure that I not only had the tackle to fish effectively with the zigs but I would actually



put the method into practice, whenever I got the opportunity in the following years.

Of course, like most things in life timing is everything and over the next few seasons I went on to fish a few venues where zigs were far from an ideal tactic. Fishing heavily weeded and snaggy venues for a while meant the zig rigs stayed locked away for the majority of time, but on the few occasions I did use them, they certainly caught me an awful number of carp both in summer and in the winter. Venues like Cuttle Mill one of my favourite winter waters, where action could come thick and fast in the shallow water even when the lake was half frozen, proving that even short 1-3 ft zigs can be deadly on the right venue. Another venue a local 20 acre club water was also a great zig venue and over a

couple of seasons a huge number of carp succumbed to the zigs, fished subsurface or over depth, a tactic I'd picked up from the Oxland days. It was around this time that the new spombs first hit the market and they made the task of getting floating baits like trout pellets and chum mixers out at range, easy. Fishing slightly over depth or baits just on the surface producing multiple hits of carp. One particular trip I even managed 5 lovely mirrors over 20lb in just 4 hours.

Over the next decade I employed zigs semi regularly and enjoyed some excellent sport.

As you can probably gather by now, I'm pretty sold on the tactic, and once again in recent years, on new venues



that I have taken them to, the good old zigs have been a major tactic once more, helping me land a number of stunning carp.

So, if I've perhaps grabbed your attention long enough to give the tactic ago, then I'll run through a few pointers that may help with your own fishing.

Well firstly like I said right at the beginning, having the right mind set is all important, especially if you're brand new to the method or unconvinced of the effectiveness of zigs. I would suggest picking a well stocked venue and one that has depths under 10ft deep or so, that way you can fish standard zigs i. e with a lead clip or inline lead as apposed to the slightly trickier method of using adjustable zigs that are aimed mainly at deep water venues. If allowed I would fish all 3 rods on the tactic, thus increasing your chances of not only finding which depth the fish prefer to be at, but which hook baits both in terms of colour and smell/taste they prefer on the day.

When it comes to tackle there are a number of dedicated lines, hooks and terminal items manufactured with zig fishing in mind. From experience and a confidence point of view, I now stick to a couple of items that have yet to let me down. Hook choice along with your hooklink are I feel the two of the most important items. They need to (A) hook the fish when they actually mouth your bait and (B) land them after you get the actual bite. Remember small hooks with long links are far from an ideal hooking arrangement especially in the winter and spring when the carp can be just mouthing the bait with no real aggression or purpose. For hooks and after having tried a variety of patterns,



my personal preference is a beaked style size 8 or 6 wide gape hook, sharpened and honed of course to hypodermic precision. I much prefer a beaked pointed style hook and once buried in the carps mouth these rarely come out. Hooklink choice is normally One of the low diameter match style lines in 12lb or 14lb BS. Remember fishing hook baits in the mid to upper layers means that everything is in plain sight to a carp. There's no hiding scruffy or cluttered rigs, like you can do when fishing on the bottom. A lead clip arrangement coupled with long anti-tangle sleeves that allow the lead to discharge is again my favoured approach and whilst some anglers do choose an inline set up, I much prefer a lead clip.

Bait choice is once again a personal preference and I've caught numerous carp on both artificial foam type hook baits as well as small 10mm pop ups. Infact thinking back to those early days on Cuttle Mill, white 10mm Mainline Milky toffee pop ups proved to be very consistent catchers in the slightly murky coloured water. I would image for a lot of recent anglers trying zig fishing the purpose designed zig aligners from the likes of Fox and Thinking Anglers are their first option. These are superb and offer a great starting point and of course experiment with colours and combinations. Black foam with a tiny piece of red proved exceptional on one venue I have fished in the early part of last year, Whilst on other water yellow and brown have been successful. The key is to experiment and try different things.

Over the years, when discussing zigs, the subject of tangles and the problems that can occur is usually brought up. I have to be honest and have never had any issues as a couple of tips will certainly cut those pesky tangles down.

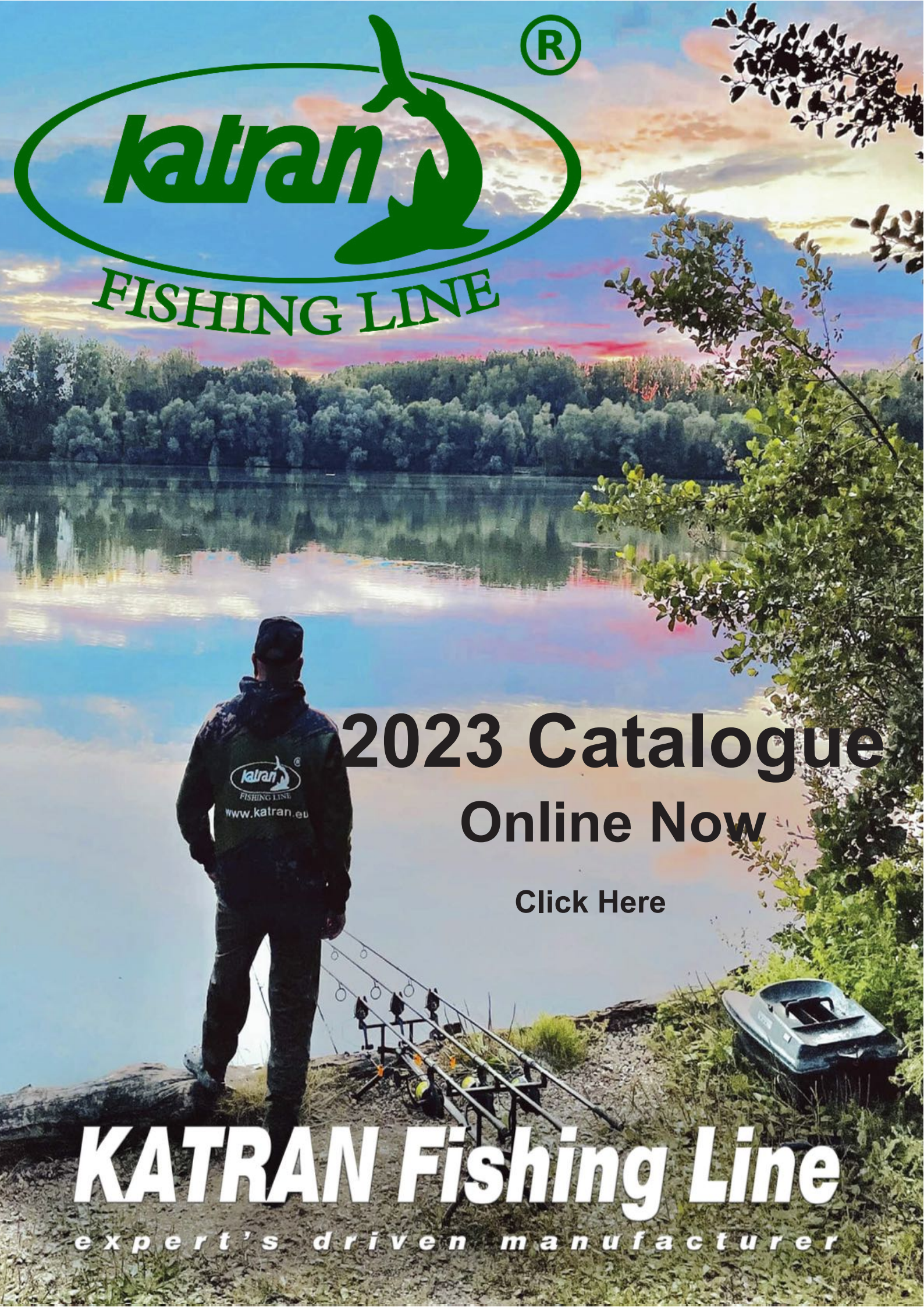


The use of PVA can be most beneficial and by using dissolving nuggets you can be confident that your tiny little bait will be presented perfectly. When casting those long links, a smooth and steady cast will usually be sufficient and of course watching that hook link in flight and stopping the lead just before impact will throw the lead and hook bait well apart. One key element that is certainly apparent is that the anglers that are the most pro active seem to certainly get the better results. So don't be afraid to recast regularly, sometimes 10 or even 20 times a day, depending on the venue of course. Believe me slight tweaks and changes can bring quick results. Finally, and one of the best tips I can offer is to fish zigs both day and night. Whilst it may appear that the daylight warm periods of the day are ideal, believe me fishing zigs at night can be deadly at the start of the year in the months of January - March. Those cold, frosty clear nights on or around the moon phases sometimes being the most productive. To sum up, be committed, use balanced tackle and be busy. Zigs aren't something to cast out and leave for 24 hours, you are generally trying to get a responsive reaction from the fish and that could be from a recast, a change of depth or a change of bait or colour.

So, for now I'll leave it there, Hopefully if you are new to zig fishing or just needed a confidence boost, you will be inspired enough to give this deadly method a serious go, until next time, good luck.

Tim Childs.





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A QUICK TRIP

by Rob Gainer



My annual autumn France trip quickly approached this year after having it booked for nearly 18 months. The venue was Eau de Vie North lake which is situated in North-West France. The lake is 3.5 acres in size and is only booked out as a lake exclusive for up to 4 people. It is a fairly heavily stocked venue for the size of the water but as with most small waters they can still be tricky on their day. We planned to go with only 2 people to give us more room and choice of swims to stand a better chance of getting on fish especially with the distance we were travelling to get there we didn't want anyone to be sat behind motionless rods. The journey was nearly 680 miles and 13 hours long including the Eurotunnel crossing, having over a 5-hour journey from Yorkshire to the tunnel, and then a further 6 hours on France side to the lake.

going swims, a lap of the lake was done. We were told the previous week had 3 anglers on and 19 fish were caught between them. Once we had done a couple of laps, I found several fish feeding in shallow water, so decided to try and nick a few quick bites instead of committing large beds of bait to an area. My usual approach of 12mm pop ups fishing over small beds of crumbed Trigga boilies, Trigga 4mm pellet, and the lake's own particle heavily plugged in Trigga liquid booster was the starting point. All three rods were placed in shallow water where I'd seen fish feeding. After getting a couple of quick bites from smaller stockies, it went very quiet. After closer inspection I noticed to my surprise the fish were spooking off my pop ups in the shallow water as they fed heavily on the deck and a change in tactic was required.

On arrival we were faced with far from ideal conditions with temperatures touching 30 degrees, bright sunshine, high pressure and not a cloud in the sky. Far from what we expect for autumn fishing in early October. Not wanting to rush into the so-called





After seeing this happen at least 5 different occasions, a change was needed and quick, if I hadn't been able to observe the feeding fish at close quarters, I would have never guessed they would spook on the blatant approach of 12mm pop ups, especially considering this is how I fish 95% of the time and it has always been so successful for me. So, the switch was made on all the rods over to snowmen rigs, using Trigga hard hookers topped with 12mm pop ups, so that my hook baits sat hard on the deck along with my free offerings. This did the trick from the off. By Tuesday, the temperatures finally started to cool off, still warm for October at low 20 degrees but far more bearable than 30 degrees. Cloud cover started rolling in and

the pressure dropped giving far more favourable fishing conditions. With steady baiting the action then started coming thick and fast along with getting through to the better fish the lake holds including a couple of heavily scaled mirrors between 39-41lb

With a couple of days left of the trip, it was noticeable the bites had slowed up once again but noticing fish still visiting my spots. Closer inspection was again needed and after watching them in the shallow water I noticed a couple of fish spook off the pink pop ups topping my snowmen hook baits. So, a second change was in order and switching once again. After giving it some thought a change over to a slip D rig with a heavily glazed Trigma corkie wafter was my chosen approach this time.



This again proved a fruitful change as the bites quickly came, with another 40lb mirror on the last morning ending my week session with 40 fish from 41 bites. Baiting little and often with the Trigga solubles throughout the week kept the bites coming.

Being lucky enough to observe the feeding fish at close quarters and how they spooked off different rigs, and also how the feeding habits changed during the week was definitely an eye opener. Without making the effort to check would I have had action eventually or would the week have been a slow week and the long drive home been

put down to the weather being the reason for little action. It has now made me more aware that when fishing deeper water and not being able to observe the fish feeding on my spots, how often we have fish feeding on our baits and the wrong rig or hook bait choice for the occasion.

Perhaps the next time I have fish showing on my spots and the conditions look perfect yet no action it could simply be rig choice ? Something to look at next time...

Until next time...

Rob





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A personal journey into angling



by Joanne Barlow

Unlike many anglers I did not grow up on the bank or at the beach fishing. It is true that my Dad loved a wee bit of sea fishing when on holiday and I got to tag along but that was the extent of it. Fishing for me came very late in my life. It was after marriage and two children that my husband, Dave, a very keen angler in his younger days, began taking our son, Matt, to the bank and teaching him to fish. At the time our daughter, Emily, was not interested however we did, on sunny days, join them and I got to have a go. Dave and Matt became very good anglers and competed in many competitions both in the UK and France, bringing home a number of trophies whilst I cheered them on from the side. As the children got older I was able to get out more with Dave and fell in love with the sport and the outdoors. It was a relaxing and enjoyable hobby UNTIL !

In 2015 we, as a family, agreed to purchase the most prestigious carp competition in the country, the BCAC (British Carp Angling Championships) and I suddenly found myself on the bank running marshalling the events. A nervous female in a very male dominated environment talking a language I did not understand – Blow back rigs, helicopter rigs, zigs, I mean really what were they all talking about. One thing is for sure I needed to learn and learn quickly so I turned to Dave and asked him to teach me to fish properly AND I wanted to enter a competition to understand what it was like to be on the other side of marshalling.

So we hit the tackle boxes and I learnt about rigs, lines, rods, spools and so much more. We then hit the bank and I learnt to cast accurately and consistently. I learnt about baiting strategies and netting and handling fish with care. THEN came our first competition. The British Carp Cups Mixed Pairs match. I was so excited and nervous.



A personal journey



We came out first in the draw got a good swim and headed off to set up. The moment that first whistle blew to start the match my life changed. Excuse the pun but I became hooked not just on fishing but on competition fishing too. The buzz of the match and the total focus throughout was fabulous. We went on to win the match and the

trophy still take pride of place on the shelf.

I wanted to learn and grow in the sport and joined the Ladies Carp Academy run by Bev Clifford. What a fantastic weekend. To be on the bank with so many other like minded females and to have the opportunity to grow in confidence was invaluable. I came away from the Academy weekend and wanted to head out to fish a weekend



completely on my own. Oh boy what a weekend. My first fish was a lovely carp at 17lbs only to be followed up by the Lady of the Lake at 35lb 12oz. I was blown away.

The journey since then has been off the charts. Winning the BCC Ladies Pairs Championships



back to back and being invited to fish with the Forces Carp Classic in France. Whilst there I was invited to trail for the Scotland Carp Team (I am Australian born with Scottish parent) I was offered a place and then asked to help establish their first ever ladies carp team. Four years later the 6 member strong team have competed at National and International Level bringing home a Silver Medal at the first ever Home Tri Nations. The highs and lows of competition fishing are immeasurable. It takes passion, commitment, dedication, time and a lot of money. The support from family and friends is crucial and I could not have considered being on this journey if not for the encouragement, support and coaching of my husband. Nor would it be possible without the trust and support from major sponsors like Nutrabaits. Richard Hughes believed in our





team and in our desire to help bring female fishing to the forefront of Scotland and with their bait sponsorship we were able to go to the Worlds Championships in France last year. An experience that would take a whole other chapter to write.

Fishing for Carp Team Scotland Ladies has been an incredibly proud moment in my life which become even broader when I was asked to try out and then join the Scotland Ladies Sea Angling Team. Together we have now won 2 silver medals at Home Nations and hope to bring home the Gold later this year.

Fishing is so much more than just catching fish. It can break down



barriers, bring people together, create communities and ease your worries. It can ignite a fire inside that you didn't know was there and take you to places that you would never have dreamed of going. For me it has opened up a whole other world of friendships both here and abroad and has set me on paths that I still cannot believe are real. I love the sport and I love the outdoors and I am so very lucky to be able to share all of this with the person who helped make it happen, my husband.

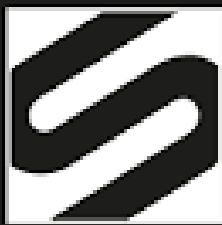
It goes to show that we never know what is waiting around the corner. Love what you do and enjoy your fishing.

Jo Barlow





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**** STOP PRESS ****

**TEAM NUTRABAITS BAGS
A TON OF CARP IN FEB!!!**





On a recent team social over at Domaine de Brocard, located in the beautiful champagne region of France the lads managed to catch a astonishing total weight of 2495 lb 3oz.

Team member Richard Logan tells the Story.

Initially we had all chosen to fish on the large lake at the Brocard complex, before arriving we all picked a numbered ticket from a bag, to depict which order we would choose our swims, I took out the first ticket and took a sneaky peak, I had chosen number 1, this gave me first choice.

On approach to the large lake we drove alongside the small lake which



was 28 acres in size with only 4 pegs situated around the lake, as we passed peg 2 I saw what I thought was a bit of movement along the tree line on the far bank,

After arriving at the large lake we took a walk around, it was cold and windy and I saw nothing that gave me any hint of where the fish might be, so I made the choice to fish on peg 2 on the smaller lake where I thought I'd seen some movement, it was much more sheltered and out of the wind.

After setting up, I received notice that Battista Melis (the Italian team member joining us for the week)

Had some logistical problems and wouldn't be arriving until late, so I decided not to fish the first night as the spots I would be fishing were around 170 yards, and I would need to bring in the rods to collect Battista from the train station.

My peg partner and fellow team member Ian Kent wasted no time in getting his rods out, and





in no time at all he had he's first fish on the bank, he continued catching into the night as I watched in envy while waiting for the phone call to collect our Italian friend,

The phone call never came.

The next morning I awoke to a message to say that he had arrived and I now had to

drive a 2 hour round trip to collect him.

There was 12 fish caught between our group over the first 24hours, I couldn't wait to get back to the lake and get a rod in the water, after all it was February and I couldn't help feeling that this feeding window might not last temperatures were dropping and the forecast didn't look great. By the time I had finished running around and got myself back to my swim the light was starting to fade, so it was 3 pub chucks, at least I had a rod in the water I thought to myself, the night passed I was woken a couple of times during the night, buy only to take photos of Ian's fish.

Monday morning I woke early there was no signs of fish moving but I put my rods out to the spots I had chosen, it wasn't long before the first one was away, and I slipped the net under a looking mirror of 37lb. 4oz now I could relax the pressure was off and I could enjoy my fishing.

Reports were starting to flood in from the big lake behind us Mathew Bloomfield had caught a



few fish, his peg partner Matt Farr was also catching, Greg Caron (French team member) was off the mark..... slowly but surely we were gathering pace, and the fish were coming thick and fast, Dean Parker had caught, then news came that Dutch Team member Jeroen Van de Broek had a large common on the bank, a fish that would eventually lead to Jeroen's victory in our team social with the largest capture of the week...

By Wednesday the weather had really changed we had torrential rain followed by zero temperatures overnight, the bites stopped. Was that the fishing over I thought to myself?

But it certainly wasn't, the next day we caught more fish than the previous days, it was relentless at times I couldn't keep a rod in the water! Matt Monteiro and he's brother Josh were also now onto fish after moving swims, what a trip this was turning into, 10 team members from 4 countries, all using different tactics and different baits from the Nutrabaits range, the carp could not get enough of it!

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Heres to the
next one...

Richard





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*The Carp4Kids
Academy*

*"TACKLE BOXES NOT
XBOXES"*

What's it all about!

At the Carp4kids Academy, our aim is to ensure the future of carp fishing in the UK, by training carp mad kids between 5 and 15 years old to fish for carp safely and confidently, understanding fish safety, watercraft, bait application, rig mechanics and much more, but most importantly to have fun doing it.



The kids bring their parent with them, who are encouraged to join in the lessons and fish after the lessons each day, a perfect chance to bond



whilst enjoying the event. You'd be amazed how much the parents enjoy the event, and they learn a lot too, the parents can also stay in their swim and fish all day if they like (a little bit of me time). If their parents don't fish, or are not overly confident, that's not an issue as the whole team are available after the lessons to spend time with anyone who needs it, we want you to catch carp, simple, and we will do everything in our power to help you do that, we already know the kids will catch carp!

We supply all meals, from a Full Fried Breakfast, Packed Lunch, Evening Meal, drinks and snacks, all in your swim, more time for fishing. But if you feel hungry there is an onsite café.

We will supply showers and toilets for you all, ensuring that pesky carp smell can be washed off, but let's face it, carp smell.....it's a badge of honour.

The lessons are conducted professionally with a lot information and





demonstrations, with the emphasise on getting the kids involved, we encourage talking, asking questions and every lesson has practical parts, from casting to using Bait Boats. Each lesson is usually planned for about 90 minutes, however they generally go over that, as the kids are loving life, enjoying using items of tackle that they have never seen before, or tying their own rigs, hey, the lesson finishes when the kids say so, but remember, as soon as the lessons are finished you all get the rods out for the night. We also give out the lesson plans so if things get a bit side tracked during the lessons (we have rods in the water during the lessons, so you never know when the

alarm is going to scream off) you will still have the all the information to take away.



During some of the afternoons, we will have Guest Speakers and fun and games with prizes. The instructor's fish at night also, so we are never far away from the kids, and a film



crew will be in attendance for the whole event, check out last year's video on YouTube (Carp4Kids Academy 2023 S&R Fishery Lillian May) This year's event runs from Monday 5th August to Friday 9th of August, and is being held this year at Windsorview Lakes <https://windsorviewlakes.co.uk>

A little back story

The Carp4Kids Academy started back in 2021, with the idea being to give something back to carp fishing, and more importantly to ensure the future of our beloved sport.



The inaugural event was held at S&R Fisheries on the Sandpit Lake in August 2021, with a few carp anglers wanting to run an event that would encourage young anglers to attend an event that was just for them. The event was a complete success, so it was decided to do it all again in 2022.

I was asked by Steve Nicoll, the Chairman at the time if I'd be interested in assisting the team for 2022, I immediately said that I would go and help out as best I could.

My first event was in August 2022, once again at the S&R Fisheries



Sandpit Lake, I didn't really know what to expect or what my role would be at the event, but it soon became clear that I was needed as an instructor, I already had my Angling Tutor Certificates so this was not an issue for me, and those that know me, know how passionate I am about my angling. That year I didn't get involved with any of the planning or fundraising for the event, I just had to turn up on the Sunday before the Monday kick-off. The event was fantastic, all the kids and their parents enjoyed the lessons and the fishing, with loads of carp being landed. On the Friday afternoon, once all the kids and parents had gone home, tired and happy, I was asked if I would like to become a permanent member of



the team, I of course said that I would love too.

I was asked if I would take over the social media for the Academy as a side roll, to revamp things a bit. I was already pretty good with social media, as at the time I was still the Customer Services Manager at Sonik Sports, and I was also running my own Angling page on Facebook, so it wasn't too much of an effort to get things moving, with my understanding of trends etc. It was also decided that I would be one of the main instructors from now on, with Miranda Brown being the other one, who has a wealth of angling knowledge, and with both of us fishing a lot, and



The Carp4Kids Academy
5th to 9th of August
Windsorview Lakes

For more details
email:
carp4ourkids@gmail.com

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competing to a very high standard, we were up to date with the current scene, understanding what anglers want to use, what rigs are the most popular amongst other trends.

Unfortunately, early in the process of planning for 2022, Steve stood down as the Chairman, so it was agreed that John Glasscoe, as a founder member of the team should take over the role as Chairman, with Shell Marriot as Secretary and Dicky Barton as Head of Administration, all great



anglers in their own right. So, the team was complete, with everyone knowing their role within the Academy, all of us are either serving or veterans of the Armed Forces, so you know that the organisation was going to be on point. We also have Carp4Kids Ambassadors in the shape of Barney Ward and Mason Glasscoe, with Barney being promoted to Junior Instructor for this year's event.

We go from strength to strength, if you want to attend this year, please email carp4ourkids@gmail.com or check us out on Facebook and Instagram: The Carp4Kids Academy.

"Tackle Boxes Not Xboxes"

Rod Bird

Email: carp4ourkids@gmail.com

Facebook: The Carp4Kids Academy

Instagram: [the_carp4kids_academy_](https://www.instagram.com/the_carp4kids_academy_)

Karper Ltd: www.karperbaits.com

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The Carp4Kids Academy

5th to 9th of August



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Cooking hearty soup on the bank with titanium cookware.



By Anthony Wood



When you are out fishing for a day or more, eating on the bank can be a bit boring with things like pot noodles or stale sandwiches quite often ending up being the staple.

With no fridge easily available keeping fresh food edible can be tricky to say the least, this is where homemade soup comes in.



If you do not want to spend time prepping the ingredients on the bank you can use some airtight containers to keep them fresher for longer. I use The Nomad's Kitchen collapsible containers as they are excellent quality and take up less space when empty.

When it comes to cooking, I like to use cookware that I know I can rely on, and the titanium range from Wild Camping International is exceptionally good quality. I have the entire range but the main three that I use are the 900ml titanium hanging cook pot and the 18cm titanium frying pan (I do also use the 900ml stainless steel coffee press as it makes amazing coffee).

There are lots of soups that I make but my top three favourite are French onion soup, chicken and noodle soup and my all-time favourite creamy potato soup.

The French onion soup is easy to make and if you use the Wild Camping International 900ml titanium pot then it also works as the dish that you can eat the soup out of when it is cooked.





You will need;

- 1 small onion quartered and finely chopped
- 3 tbsp butter
- 1 clove of garlic minced
- salt and pepper to taste
- ¼ tsp thyme
- 1 tbsp plain flour
- 350ml beef stock
- 110ml cold water
- 3 or 4 pieces of baguette - toasted
- cheese of your choice - grated

Next melt the butter in the pot and then add the onions, garlic, salt, pepper and thyme to the pot. Cook on low to medium heat until onions are caramelised (should take around 20-25 minutes), stirring every five minutes to stop the ingredients burning to the bottom of the pan.

Whilst your waiting stir the plain flour and cold water into a paste and then add the flour paste to the pan, stir and cook for five minutes.

Finally add the beef stock, bring to a boil, reduce to a simmer and simmer for ten minutes

Remove from the heat, add the toasted baguette pieces, and sprinkle cheese on the top.

If you are looking for good quality cookware on the bank, then I can highly recommend the Wild Camping International range. The wonderful thing about their titanium range is that even if you have a disaster and burn your food to the bottom of the cookware, it is really easy to clean.

Check out their social media and website.

www.instagram.com/wildcampinginternational

www.facebook.com/p/Wild-camping-International-Limited-100067059100414

www.wildcampinginternational.com





**Get the most out of your gas canister.
By Anthony Wood**

Whether you are camping or fishing a lot of us use camping fuel canisters and we all have our favourite brands, mine is Coleman's. One thing that we all have in common is wasted fuel and it always irritated me that there was nothing I could do about it.

Recently, I found a company called FlipFuel.co who had a device for transferring gas from one canister to another allowing you to refill and therefore not waste the gas from your used canisters.

They also give you guidance on not overfilling your canisters. FlipFuel.co sell digital scales that you can use to weigh your canisters to know how much fuel you have in a canister. This way you can simply weigh each canister and if the amount is under the top weight of a full canister, you can safely transfer the fuel from one canister to another.

As an example, the Coleman C500 has a net isobutane weight of 440g and a gross weight including the canister of 625.6g so when I weighed my used canister it showed the gross weight of 458.4g which means that I have used 167.2g of isobutane leaving me 272.8g of isobutane. So, I can either be happy knowing that I have well over half a canister left or I can transfer the remaining 272.8g of isobutane into another canister that has 167.2g of gas or less and know that I won't be overfilling it.





This means that there is no more carrying around half empty gas canisters when you go out fishing or camping.

To get the best fuel transfer out of the device, place one of the canisters in a cold place which if you are at home could be the refrigerator or if you are at the lake place it in shallow water (just don't let the water go over the top of the canister) for about 10 minutes.

The reason for cooling one of the canisters down (the one you are going



to put the fuel into) is that it will transfer from the warm canister into the cold canister much more effectively.

Place the receiving canister (the cold one) on the bottom and attach the device, attach the sending canister (the warm one) to the upper part of the device. There is a convenient diagram on the device that also tells you which is the canister the fuel will come out of and which the gas will go into.

The fuel transfer device is designed to be used with butane (it also works with isobutane, which is most of the UK canisters) and it works really effectively.

I just very quickly want to mention another device for when you have emptied your fuel canister and want to recycle it. The pot handle from Outdoor Elements (also sold by FlipFuel) allows you to screw a handle onto the canister thread and pierce the canister with a sharp puncture needle, making the canister ready for recycling.

Check them out on their website and social media;

www.instagram.com/flipfuel

www.facebook.com/FlipFuel



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Matt Bullas smashing it !!



Just days after catching an enormous 44lb 12oz carp, and smashing the lake record at Blackthorn Fishery in Oswestry, angler Matt Bullas has unbelievably caught the same fish again only five days later at 45lb. Just five days after catching “Big J” as part of a haul which included another three carp over 30lb, Matt has repeated the feat, but this time he managed to catch the excitement on film

In the previous week, Blackthorn Fishery in Oswestry, Shropshire was the location of a fantastic display of angling skills last week as Matt caught the largest carp in the venue’s Pines lake. This was all despite the horrific weather caused by Storm Isha and Storm Jocelyn.

Matt’s impressive haul of 14 carp across 2 sessions included, “Big C”, the previous lake record of 31lb 9oz and a carp named “The Scorpion”, which set the new lake record at 35lb 5oz. Matt then went on to break his own record by landing one of the largest carp in the main lake at Blackthorn Fishery “Big J” weighing in at a whopping 44lb 12oz, as well as “Bullseye” at 33lb 5oz.

In his latest haul, as well as recatching the monster carp “Big J” at 45lb, Matt also caught “i Fish” at 30lb.

On repeating last weeks. Matt comments, this has been an amazing couple of weeks Angling for me, working hard and putting in a lot of effort to keep refining and building my experience to improve my Carp Angling, the rewards have been fantastic and I am over the moon with my 16 captures including 4 x 30+ and 2 x 40+ Carp in a matter of days.

Charlie Hughes Owner of Blackthorn Fishery commented, “Last week I commented that I didn’t think it would be long before we saw Matt back and enjoying his carp fishing journey but I couldn’t have predicted that he would catch “Big J” again so quickly and continue this journey in such spectacular fashion.

“This is an unprecedented feat at Blackthorn Fishery. To catch one of the largest fish in the lake is impressive but to do it twice in 5 days is absolutely unheard of. We are excited to see what Matt does next.”

Matt’s future plans are to become a top UK Carp Angler, continuing to invest time on the bank and fish multiple new venues to continue advancing his career in Carp Fishing.

Paul Dozier



This B1 37 lb 10 mirror was caught on a Ronnie rig made with Deception end tackle. Hook bait was a DNA yellow pop up . The mirror was caught over a bed of Carbon Baits co2 mix and sweetcorn. All spodded out at short range



another B1 banger!

Packing up fish , 38 lb 04 mirror caught on a DNA pb pop up on a Ronnie rig made with Deception tackle components . Fished over corn and carbon Co2 mix.



Andrew Dickenson



Ben Dickenson



Chris King



Darren - The Morning Carper



Jamie Harvey



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JT



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<https://www.etangstpierremont.com>

Since purchasing the lake in July 2018, the work has been ongoing, five years ago upon purchasing the complex, after being greeted with complaints from day one about brown water from the village bore hole and a non-working gas boiler we set to work.

After replacing gas boilers with electric water heaters, we then set about installing our own water purification system and am pleased to say that we now have quality clear English standard drinking water.

Last year we introduced fibre broadband and the lake is now completely covered by fast Wi-Fi, air conditioning is more than effective as is the heating in the three bedroomed guests accommodation.

Throughout covid we like every other lake in France struggled but survived moving guests to the following years at our own expense and are pleased with the outcome, year after year our returning guests return complimenting us on how the establishment has improved over the years since we took over.

This year the lake now has a full time Bailiff who is an excellent cook, two freshly cooked hot meals a day with baguettes at lunchtime delivered to the bankside has received very positive feedback, as has the covered pool table and charcoal BBQ which has enabled groups to socialize in the evenings.

As for the fishing during covid weed did appear and eventually got the better of us, thanks to Ben at Gills & Scales and his incredible specialist weed removal boat the weed with roots was successfully removed last September, some weed is inevitable but we now know who to call sooner rather than later should it re appear!

The current lake record is **64.5 lbs** this incredible fish has not been out for eighteen months, there are now multiple fish in there mid 50's, at the time of writing this groups are currently hooking out nineteen fish a week, people wish they could stay and several groups did last year when the following week from theirs was un sold.

This years plan is to completely re-roof and floor the lakeside house eating area and in the winter of 23/24 install electric power points around the lake and net the lake to reduce bio mass.

Our website is updated regularly with a live booking calendar
Enquiries and bookings can be requested through the website or by calling **07774747237**

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Thanks for reading

**Send your articles and catch reports by the
28th March 2024 for next months magazine**

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markcarper@talkingcarp.co.uk



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

'The Talking Carp Team'

Brian Dixon

Mark Faulkner

Mark Galli

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

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

- DANNY FAIRBRASS

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