



Talking Carp

Magazine

Issue 84
February 2023



Predator Supplement
inside

Inside -
Julian Cundiff, Joe Turnbull
Dave Locke, John Morgan and more





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Hello and welcome to Issue 84....

By the time you read this we will start seeing light in the mornings again, and we know what that means! In a few weeks we will be spotting Snowdrops and daffodils, the water temps will raise a couple of degrees, and the fish will start to wake up from their winter slumber.

Are you even ready for Spring fishing? Have you chosen your waters? Do you have a plan? Have you got your bait sorted for the year?

More importantly, its time to get your kits out, dust off the bags and check its all in good working order. Reproof your bivvy, wash down the rods and alarms, change your lines, fit new batteries, recharge everything at least once...

And for those bits you need to replenish, or if you are in the market for some new gear, we have two great shows coming up !!

Firstly is the Northern Carp Show at Bowlers Exhibition Centre on the 25-26th February, then comes The Big One at Farnborough on the 4-5th of March. Two great shows and we hope to see you all there.

We know there will be plenty to see, and too many of your favourite anglers to mention... so don't delay, get your tickets today!

Don't forget to keep those emails and catch reports coming in:-

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Predator Supplement Part 2



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U22 YOUTH CARP FISHING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS ANNOUNCED

A new age class has been included in the FIPS Ed international carp fishing calendar as part of a drive to promote junior and youth carp angling across the globe.

Carp fishing is one of the fastest growing categories within the FIPS Ed line up with 34 nations registered for the seniors class. The women's class is growing strongly following inclusion last year and the addition of a youth section will allow younger anglers to compete for their country too.

Chair of the Carp Fishing Technical Committee and England Manager Rob Hughes has been the driving force behind the inclusion of both the womens and the new U 22 youth category.

It's clear that carp fishing is hugely popular all around the world and, having established the hugely successful women's class a couple of years ago, the next natural step is to bring in a youth squad. There's loads of talented youth anglers that love to fish in competition but would not be able to compete for their countries under the current system. This new category will allow them to do just that and also give managers the opportunity of building a talent pathway from junior through to full international senior level.

To qualify, competitors must be under 22 years of age on the 31st of January of the year preceding the event.

The inaugural World Cup will be held as an exhibition event in France in 2023 with a full World Championships slated for 2024 in either Latvia or Italy.

Talking Point



with Julian Cundiff

TALKING POINT...

(Anniversary edition) Part 2

with Julian Cundiff & Brian Dixon

Welcome to the second part of this chat with Jules, and we carry on where we left off, with part 2 of the anniversary chat as we celebrate his “golden anniversary contract” with Nash Tackle.

Bri : It would be fair to say that you would be an asset to just about any company out there, so Nash as a company must have been very happy with the amount of media presence you have sustained over the years. Whilst you have never been one to blatantly push and name drop companies or products in every sentence, you have managed to be involved in so many UK carp fishing magazines over the years, and have always been willing to share what tactics and products have kept you so successful and at the forefront of the carp angling industry.

Jules : Well, you could say that but I definitely can't.... I'll take the compliment though ! When Nashy first contacted me in the late eighties the world was a different place and print ruled the roost.

Possibly if you were an established big fish angler and publicly known you could get and keep a sponsorship by catch shots in Angling Times and Anglers Mail and being on the stand come conference days. However, if you didn't have that big fish pedigree the only other way you could get on the ladder was by knowing the head honcho of the firm (fishing his water etc) or by being spotted in the magazines. Back then it was Carpworld, Big Carp, Carp Fisher, Carp Catcher, the weeklies, Coarse Angler, Coarse Fisherman and David Halls Coarse

JULES' MONTHLY MUSINGS

Winter has arrived but that hasn't stopped JULIAN CUNDIFF from getting out and banking a few. If you're not out there, you won't catch 'em!



Fishing. Sounds a lot but most / many were already stitched up and getting in them was no easy task. Being able to catch carp is one thing but being able to write consistent, publishable and entertaining material is another. I guess the editors liked my stuff and Kev was astute enough to see I was in a big percentage of all the above ! Much as I liked Kevin, I knew it was the fishing business not fishing charity and he was not signing me up and keeping me out of charity.....and nor is he now. I was lucky enough that being employed by the courts to understand responsibility and yes sir / no sir which helped. A lot that I've seen come and go in the fishing industry haven't got a clue and wouldn't last five minutes in

a ' proper job '. I still feel the same way now and although there are lots more anglers delivering VFM I look at some and think WTF and know they ain't gonna last. When it comes to product placement I think / hope that being involved in so few companies over thirty five plus years means my work carries a degree of authenticity. I've never been one to make outlandish claims which kind of undo what was said a year ago....or even less at times. This is what I use, this is why I use it and the proof of the pudding is in the catch reports. I've never told anyone to swap stuff unless what they were doing was significantly and proven to be costing them fish. Good luck if you use



Sticky, Mainline, Fox, Korda etc. They all do good stuff but this is what I use. It's a small industry where everyone knows everyone and kicking those on the way up will end up hurting you on the way down I promise.

Bri : Looking at the Nash social media, it appears they have really

upped their game over recent years, with Alain Blair leading the team with his extremely addictive high energy nature videos, then you add Alfie Willingale, Finlay Todhunter and so on and you have a media team that seems unstoppable. Have they tried getting you involved in that side of things too?

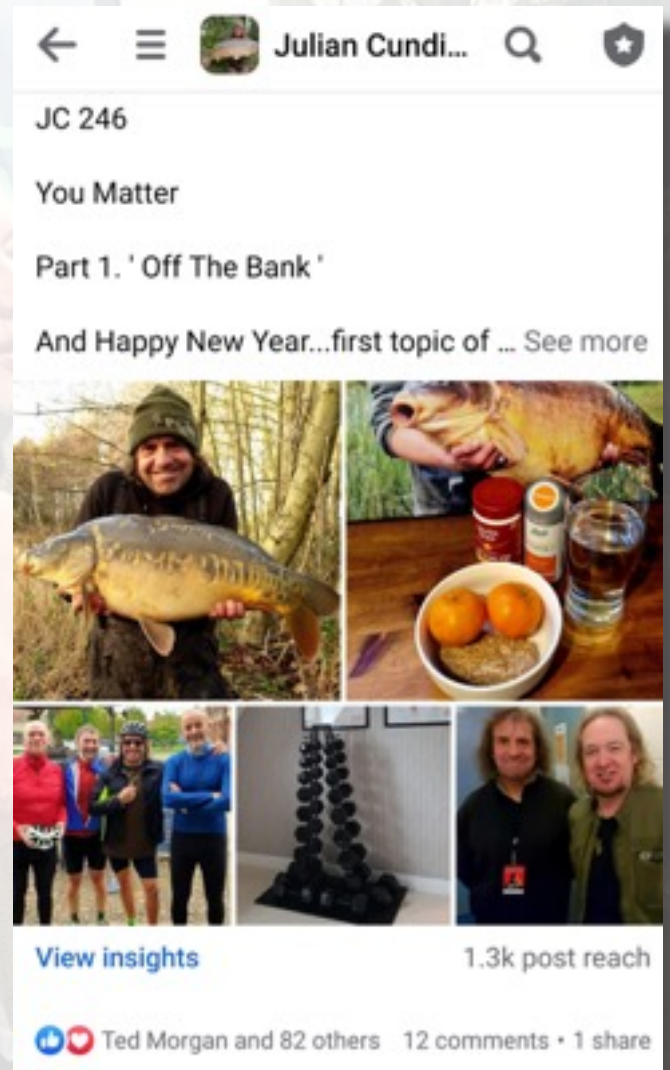
Jules ; Carp fishing is a broad church and promotion of the brand is a broad church too. To be successful a brand needs to be all things to all people on all outlets and no one person can do that....not Alan, Ali, Terry, Pitchers or even me. With Nash I know what I'm good at and try to do that even better.

Most days you will see some sort of Nash promo from me on Facebook , Twitter and Instagram. It could be as subtle as the clothing on display with a catch shot, an instructional piece or even a humorous one. Add to that the Julian Cundiff Angling Page which is now up to 250 technical posts (a post uses around two hours of my time)



A monthly column for Total Carp and Talking Carp, twice yearly appearances in Carp Fisher, regular work for the Czech Republic Carp Dream Association website and so on. To start getting involved in reels, stories, Vlogs and the like is simply not possible. That could well make a passion feel too much like a job ! Alfie, Hassan, Jacob, Hassan etc all do great work.... but not in the field I cover. You can't have a team of eleven centre forwards. To be a great team you need to be a balanced team and utilise each individuals strength to theirs and your benefit !

Bri : One thing that cannot be beaten is the Open Days, a chance for the everyday angler to come to an angling shop, or the very popular Carp Society days at Horseshoe, and meet up with the likes of yourself and Alan. Pre Covid there was quite a few of these up and down the country, then the pandemic hit and stopped everything of course, but now a form of normality is back with us and the Open Days have started again with a chance to see some new products and talk face to face with yourselves. Now I have been present at these days and I know first-hand how busy these days can be. From doors opening to doors closing, it is nonstop for you guys... fuelled by coffee and biscuits. You always seem in your element when doing these, so is this something you will continue doing so into the foreseeable future as long as you are happy to do so? Do you have any planned for 2023



you can let us know about? And shall we not mention the state of Alans tackle box???

Jules : I absolutely love tackle shop open days and I'm not breaching any confidences (I hope) by stating that Nash are going to concentrate heavily on these in 2023. Last year we upped our game after Covid scuppered many of the big shows and feedback was tremendous. It felt like we could do more one to one stuff with visitors and interact properly. I love the big shows but with the footfall you have to deal with it can be a bit conveyor belt ish at times. Last year I did nine for Nash and I bet this year will be a lot more. Funnily enough we just did our first big one of 2023 at Fishing Tackle and Bait of Doncaster and it was rammed all day. Alan Blair and myself have done plenty in the past and this was the biggest yet by far. Even Alan looked shattered and compared to me he's a youngster ! Again, like the social media side of things between the two of us we do provide something for most visitors ? Heck Hog Roasts, freebies, one off silly deals, raffles and talks....not bad for free. The shops deserve and appreciate it and we enjoy it. Alan's tackle box...well as he's my boss



I'm going no comment on that !



Bri : Looking forward... we have already seen that Nash are doing a new social media feature by dropping new videos every Monday on their social media channels, and if I'm not mistaken I have seen the Nash brand on the floor plan for the Northern Carp show so that will be a big welcome back for such a big company, so can we take it that there will be plenty of new Nash products coming this year for the carp angler? And more importantly... tell

our readers as they are dying to know... will you be there?

Jules : Yes I can confirm that Nash will be at the first ever Northern Carp Conference and I will be there both days. Jamie did ask me to do the main stage talk but to be honest I prefer the one to one stuff on our stand. I know Alan is talking , as are Ali and Bobby so I think I will let him do us proud. I didn't do last years NAS purely and simply as it was too close to our overseas trip and no way was I risking conference crud with the holiday so near. No matter how careful we are doing so many selfies, handshakes, piccies, close up rig demos,



book signings with so many people indoors is a recipe for bugs. Fingers crossed for 2023 and I'm sure it will be a belter !

Bri : Well that's it for this issue I'm afraid... or we could go on all day... so remember folks, you can reach Jules on many of his media channels, where he offers free help and advice, and will generally answer any questions you may have so check out and follow his links if you have not already done so.

So, until the next time, take care and happy fishing.

Jules : Thanks Brian have a wonderful 2023 all of you.

Jules

Facebook Julian Cundiff Angling / Julian P Cundiff

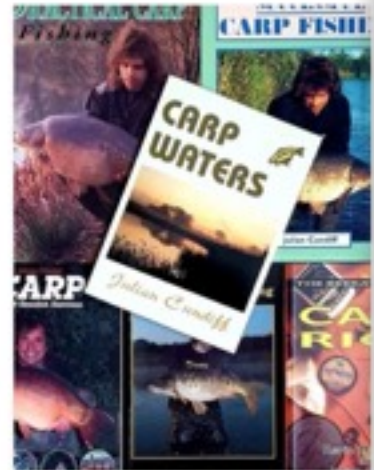
Instagram julescundiff1

Twitter @juliancundiff



Julian Cundiff Angling

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



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Bait, just a thought or two



By Joe Turnbull

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

We know that carp detect feed signals via not only the taste receptors around and in their mouths but can also recognise food signals via the olfactory systems that are based in the nose cavity or front of the head region and many other parts of their bodies. This information that we have learnt over

the years has given us an insight into how carp find and often taste their food without sometimes (and this is just a theory) picking it up. At times I've introduced feed items into my pond (mainly sample hook baits that I've made) only for the carp to approach them and for them to simply nudge them out of the way. It's as if to say, nope I'm not having that, thanks.

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



you feed no matter what the cost will have many of the vitamins that carp need to not only to survive but strive to become fit, strong and keep them in top condition. These days many factory-made baits contain lots of important additives that carp need and probably unknowingly to most of us we are keeping them healthy and fit. Carp, like us need nutritional food, that's not to say that they must have the best money can buy but like us, but it certainly helps. It's a known fact that humans who choose an unhealthy high fat diet are known to develop many problems in later life so there is no denying that food plays an important role in keeping us healthy and it's the same for

them. Let's take hemp seed for example, it's a great feed source which is not only good for us but good for them as it contains fairly low carbs, its high in really good fatty acids such as omegas 3 and 6 and contains a decent level of protein. Perhaps if we thought a bit more about what we eat as a nation we'd be as healthy as the carp. Anglers have often argued that carp cannot recognise nutrition which to some extent is correct however, what they do and can do is forage for food or items of nutrition amongst what they have sucked in. Going back to the hemp seed, how often do you find hemp shell in your sling or in your mat? The same can be said for sweetcorn as the outer casing from sweet corn is another shell that's often found in slings or amongst carp faeces. The carp with its incredible digestive system has passed the unwanted and un-nutritional shells through itself and taken the highly digestible highly nutritious parts from the food. Whether it does this knowingly or is just something its body does naturally we will never probably know.

A great example of how you can tell

when carp find a certain food not only good to eat but nutritious (like mentioned earlier) is when they return to eat it and continue to get caught on it. I've written this many times before, but baits can often be venue dependant and by that, I mean readily accepted in certain venues and not so well accepted in others. Not wanting to make this look like too much of a plug, I have been using Mainlines Cell from the off and no matter where I take it, I catch on it and to make it sound even better I have had re captures too, lots of them. Some of the venues have been tricky difficult waters where pre baiting is nigh on impossible and some are

easier runs waters, nonetheless it never appears to let me down. Anglers and other bait makers have often spoken or written that a factor to this can be down to ph. levels in venues being the same output as what the bait may be giving off. Levels of ph. in water varies from venue to venue with the majority sitting between 7 and 8 or thereabouts and can vary from area to area. Surely though these particular baits ph. level can't so happen to sit in that perfect window where it suits every single swim it's introduced into or can it? Is this why certain baits, not just Mainlines Cell but perhaps other successful baits appear to catch wherever they are introduced? I can't see it myself but it's something to think about.

There are so many varying factors that surround bait, that these days I don't quite see it from the mystical view point that I once did but it can still be an incredibly exciting pastime to get into. Personally, experimenting with flavours, taste tracts and palatants is where my enjoyment still lies. Not so much in trying to find the holy grail of super baits,



one that may catch every single fish in the lake because I don't think that will ever happen. So long as I catch on my hook baits is enough for me. Knowing full well that I got everything right when measuring out the dosage levels and mixing odds and ends together to make an attractive enough bait for a carp to come along and suck it in, I will always find somewhat mesmerising. Making bait especially hook baits can be really interesting and over the next few issues I'll be taking you through some of the more

successful mixes that I've used over the years.

So, give them some food and think about what you're feeding them to catch them instead of following the crowd, you may just surprise yourself.

Until next time, dangle well.

JT





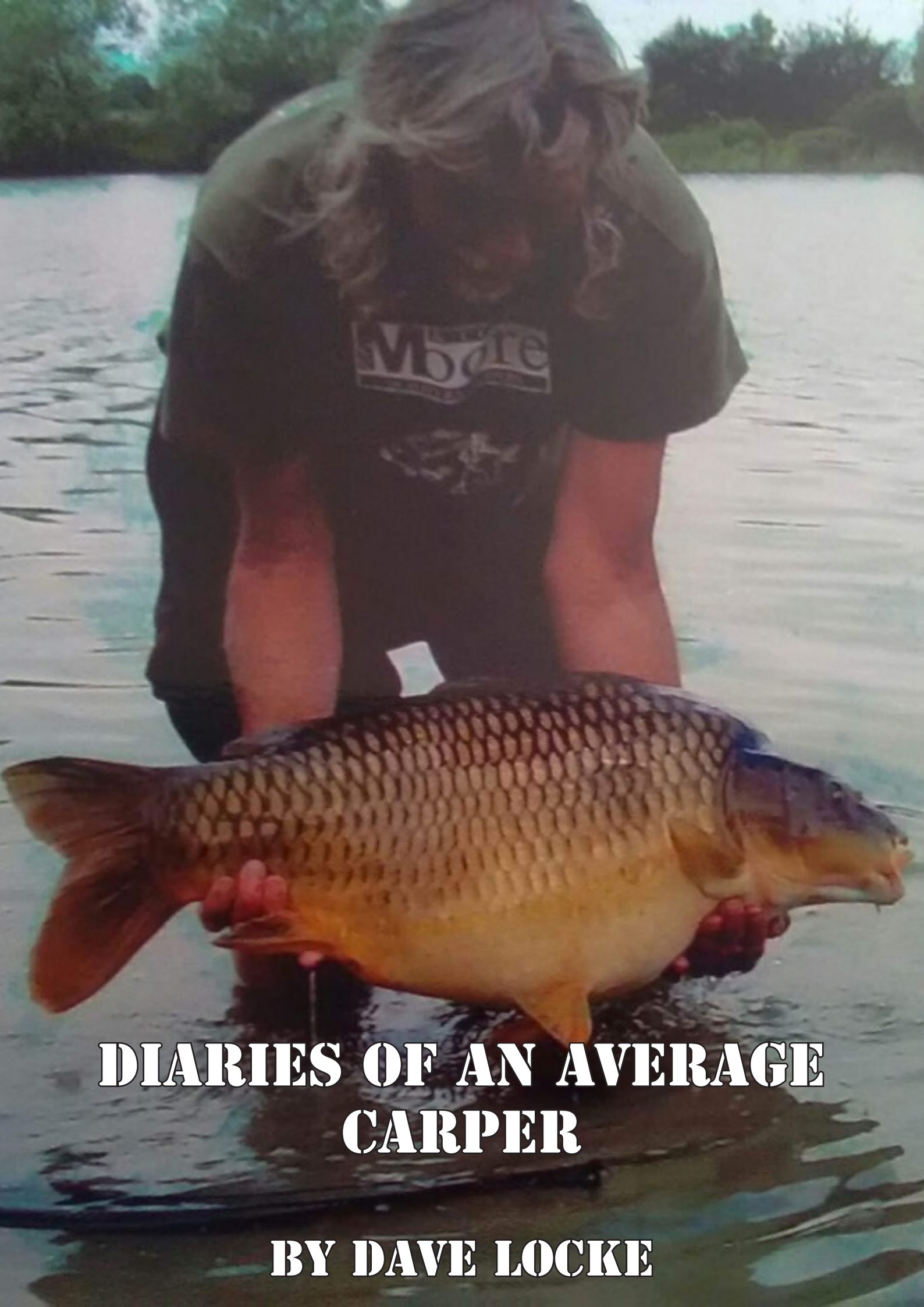
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**DIARIES OF AN AVERAGE
CARPER**

BY DAVE LOCKE

It's always puzzled me as to why you can go onto one lake and do really well, yet another lake no matter what you do you struggle.

Back in 2000 I joined a syndicate with a good head of carp up to just over thirty pounds. The first day I went I was pleased to be the only one on the lake, so I spent a long time walking around with a marker rod and a note book. I found quite a few likely looking spots so I was full of confidence for the two day session.

Trouble was the carp didn't want to play that game. Four sessions later I still hadn't had a bite, but a couple of the other chaps had done well. I knew my bait and rigs were fine especially as the lads that had caught were on the same bait as myself. After doing twelve days and nights there without a sniff my confidence had taken a bit of a beating, so I wasn't very hopeful the next time I went. Finally I got a take which resulted in a 19lb mirror, the most frustrating thing for me was my mate Ryan was in the swim next to me and he caught three carp all of which were over 20lb and we were on the same bait. The year continued for me in exactly the

same way, it didn't matter what I tried the carp in there just didn't like me. I ended up that year with just seven carp the best being a 26lb, Ryan's total for roughly the same amount of hours was over fifty carp including two of the thirty's. I'm not a chap that gives up easily but this water had got the better of me, the frustrating thing is I have no idea why I couldn't catch in there.

I decided to move on and joined another syndicate. The two waters had very similar amount of carp and were of a similar size and depth. The only difference was the second water had a lot of tench and bream as well as the carp, whereas the first water was very low stocked with other species apart from a lot of very large eels that could nick a bait in minutes. My first couple of days on the new water didn't get off to a very good start, yet another two day blank but I did find a few nice clean smooth clay areas that looked promising had been told by a couple of the lads that small margin traps were the way to go, so that's what I tried on my next session which resulted in a very welcome 27lb common, quickly followed up by a 23lb common. I went home a very happy chappy. This continued

for the next three sessions two or three carp every time I went. Yet I could not really get my head around what I had been told about the carp not responding to large beds of bait.

The next time I took three gallons of spod mix consisting of chilli hemp, sweetcorn, chickpeas and pearl barley that had been cooked in the hemp water. I put a gallon out and around a kilo of boilies on one of the clay areas I had found. It wasn't long before I got a take,, from a dreaded bream, about a dozen bream later I got a decent take but this time it was a tench followed by half a dozen more tench. Then just before dark I pulled into something that was obviously not a break or a tench. During that night I landed 5 carp three of which were over 20lb. The next day the bream and tench took turns again which resulted in 27bream and 16 tench, I was knackered hardly any sleep and achy spodding arms. Evening came and do did the carp three more during the night. So in two days I had caught 2 more carp than I did the whole of the year before.

Using two marker rods I found a large area of smooth clay ten foot long and 5ft wide so I put a couple



of gallons of my spod mix on the area but didn't fish there, I did this for two weeks before I decided to have a go. Within a hour of me spodding a load of mix and a kilo of boilies out I got my first take of the session, a high double so I was full of expectations but it was not until the next morning I got the next take and at 31lb I was well pleased that session produce seven carp for me. Although I had the odd blank day I didn't have a blank session for the whole of that summer. I went on to catch that same thirty pound common three times that summer with a top weight of 36lb, plus another 31lb common and a 36lb mirror. Winter continued to be a very successful time for me with only one blank two day session the whole winter. To this day I still have no idea why I was so unsuccessful on that first water. Even the other lads fishing there could not understand why I just could not catch on there. The two water are very similar, both are considered to be of the same degree of fishing moderate, and both as I said had the same level of stock. Will we ever understand our sport or passion ? That's a lot of the fascination with it all I reckon.



Dave



IN THE MARGIN
PARTICLES



Creedence Fishery

by Scott Geezer Grant



I do apologise in advance; The Dell articles will follow on again next month. But for this month it is all about my adventures over at Creedence Fishery. The lake is situated in Dagenham, Essex, and is about 2 acres in size with 4 swims (one in each corner) as the lake is a square shape. It has depths down to 12ft when the water is fully up. There is no weed present and all the nasty snags have been taken out, I have dived the lake on numerous occasions removing big boulders, concrete blocks, then I came across buckets of concrete with big heavy-duty chains attached. The owner Big Dan as I call him, I have known for several years and I always make time for him whenever he has called me to help him out, after all that is what mates do!!

The plan was for me to dive the lake as Dan said there were some large concrete blocks in front and under the jetty that he wants removing, now what I can tell you is that it is a diver's nightmare as when you descend the visibility is zero, meaning you cannot see a thing, even with my super bright torch. But I am a man of my word and so I will be going down and checking the area out.

I arrived just before 10 o'clock on a Tuesday morning (it was the beginning of December) and once through the security barrier I made the short drive down to the lake. Dan was already there with his second in charge Logistics Manager Lau. I wasted no time and started to get my dive gear from the





van and began the arduous task of kitting up. It was only 10 degrees and the water temperature was 7 degrees so it was not going to be pleasant. Once I was ready Dan was out in the boat and I entered the water. I started to descend and as I neared the bottom a massive dust cloud came up; this is something you cannot get around as the weight of my body falling down through the water has a big impact on the bottom debris. Once stabilised I searched around and found a couple of large concrete blocks which I brought up and handed to Dan, but the bottom was so churned up it was impossible to see anymore, I felt like Stevie Wonder!! After 40 minutes and with the cold setting in it was time to exit the water and warm up. I will

try another day when the water is warmer.

With my job completed it was time to drive around to swim 3 and start unloading my gear and getting the rods out. There was an angler in swim 4 he was doing 48 hrs and Dan was going to do a couple of nights in swim 1 which seems to be his favourite swim. The beauty of fishing Creedence is that you do not have to bivvy up, as you reside in a cabin, my cabin was a double one which gave me plenty of room to put my gear. With the van unloaded and all the gear put away it was time to get the rods into position. With the aid of my trusted boat, I found three lovely areas with the area to my left being the most fancied to produce. Rig wise I was

fishing running rigs Ronnie style with a drop off lead system. Hook bait choice was the creamy toffee in different colours topped with a few maggots. Bait wise I would be using Creamy Toffee whole mixed sized boilies and crushed boilies. With the rods out it was time to stick the kettle on. The cabins have heating, a 40" television with sky and charging points for your phone. The floor is also covered in fake grass & the windows are nice and big to let the light in, it really is nice and cosy.

I had my lunch with a nice sweet cup of tea and chilled out just watching the water. This time of the year the daylight hours are so much shorter and by 4pm its dark and ahead is 16hrs of darkness, plus the temperature



really drops. Around 7pm the fish started to show themselves and I was pleased that a few fish were showing right over the left-hand rod. I sat outside watching the water for as long as I could, well into the evening. For some reason I just could not sleep, the liners were still coming even at 01:30. Just after 02:00 oclock I decided enough was enough and went to sleep.

I was woken by my receiver, it was the left-hand rod I jumped out the bed, and was straight on the rod, as I lifted into the fish it kited left down the margin but after a little persuasion it succumbed to the waiting net. I was really pleased a fish on my first night and especially at this time of year. I looked at my phone to see what



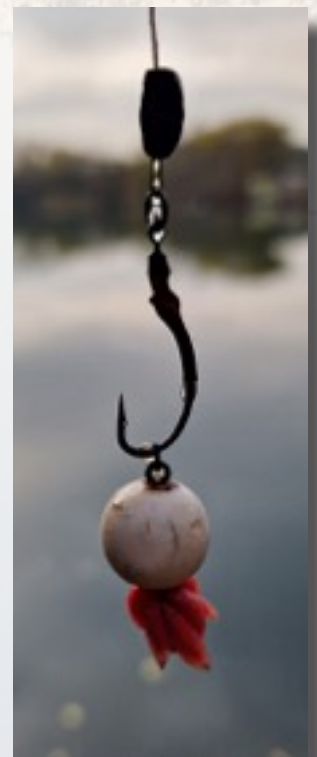


the time was, it was 07:20. I secured the fish in the net after unhooking it then proceeded to get the rod back out on the spot, before calling Dan. A short while later Dan came round and the fish was a lovely 23lb mirror and what a beauty she was. Dan took a few pics then the fish was treated and returned. Dan stayed for a while then went off to do his daily chores.

I spent the rest of the day tying up a few rigs and just pottering around. Come 2pm and I wound all the rods in and put new hook baits on and gave the areas some fresh bait, then settled down just as it was getting dark. Come 7pm the fish again showed themselves not as many but they were still out in the zone. I started to get liners on the left-hand rod again from

midnight so it was going to be another night with very little sleep. I managed to get to sleep just after 02:00 o'clock when the liners stopped but was up again at 06:00 o'clock when the liners started again, surely the rod has got to produce another fish. I was

up dressed and sitting with a coffee watching the subtle shows and just after 07:00 o'clock the left-hand rod was away again this time producing an absolute banger of a mirror weighing 23lb 2oz. I gave Dan a call and he said he would be round soon. I secured the fish and got the rod straight back out on the spot with a fresh load of bait. With the rod back out I sat down for another coffee, and just as I took my first mouthful the middle rod burst into life producing a mirror of 18lb 3oz





I just could not believe my luck the fish are obviously enjoying the bait. Dan turned up and said “when did you have the other fish” I said “when I put the phone down to you”. He was well pleased seeing his babies in their Autumn colours and in excellent condition. Dan took a few pics of both fish then they were returned to fight another day. What a session this was turning out to be 3 fish in the space of just 40 odd hours, and I still have the rest of the day left.

Like always when it is time to start packing up I take as long as possible hoping for that one last fish, but come 4pm that was not the case, and the van was loaded and I was homeward bound as I was back to work the next day.

Once back at work I was gagging to get back over the lake, I checked my rota and after juggling a few shifts around with the lads, I could do 3 nights the following week, happy days I gave Dan a call and he said no problem. Two days before I was due to arrive Dan called me and asked if I would take

my scuba gear when I went over, Why I asked? He then proceeded to tell me that he was out in the boat baiting up from a large gorilla bucket when he lost his grip and the bucket went overboard and sunk to the bottom!! Well, I cannot actually tell you what I called him, I will leave that to your imagination.

So, the following week I arrived





before I made my way back to my swim.

I decided to fish the same spots with exactly the same hook baits. With the hook baits tied up the rods were dispatched one by one, all with a generous amount of bait. The rest of the day was just spent dossing about and

watching the water. Come the evening and the fish certainly were not active like they were last week. In fact, I did not see a single fish show, the daytime temperature was colder than last week and the water temperature had dropped to 4 degrees.

Dan decided he was going to fish the night in swim 1 so that should move the fish about with the number of lines in the water. After a very quiet night with none of us banking a fish, I was up early doors sitting outside watching the water

oclock, and the first thing I had to do was get my diving gear on and retrieve the large gorilla bucket. Dan was out in the boat and directed me to where he dropped it overboard, I descended down and found the bucket straight away, I emptied the contents then brought the bucket up to the surface and handed it to Dan. The water was freezing a lot colder than last week, so it was get out, get changed and get straight round to swim 3 and get the rods out. Peter, Dans cousin was in swim 4 and had already banked a descent upper 20lber so I parked behind my swim and walked round to swim 4 to say hello. As I walked into his swim, he had just landed another fish so I done the honours and took a few snaps for him. We then chatted for a while



with a coffee. It was just after 07:00 o'clock and it would not be long before sunrise and I was hoping the fish would show then.

As I looked out across the water Dan came steaming out his cabin like a man possessed, he had a fish on and I knew it was something special as it took him ages to land and when he did, he let out an almighty Yesssssss. I knew then he had banked one of the bigger fish. I wound my rods in and went round to his swim. Dan got everything ready, and when he unfolded the net a huge linear was laying there, what a fish OMG. The fish weighed in at 34lb 4oz but to be honest the weight was irrelevant. I took copious amounts of photos the fish was then treated and returned. He was smiling like a Cheshire cat, and it was lovely to see a fishery owner so happy with himself.

The banter then followed as you can

imagine, he was so full of himself but we did have a great laugh like we always do. I stayed round with Dan for a few hours then went back to my swim and got the rods back out early afternoon. Again, through the evening the fish were quiet, then come the early hours I was woken by a liner on the left-hand rod, 10 minutes later the same thing I went out to the rods and watched the line but there was no movement. I eventually went back to sleep and was up just before 07:00 o'clock. I was sat watching the water whilst the light levels started to get greater. The right-hand rod beeped once, and when I looked at the line it started to tighten the bobbin started to rise then all of a sudden ping!! The line came out of the clip and the fish was on, the fish was swimming straight at me and

it took me a few seconds to catch up with the fish, it put up a great scarp but after a further 5 minutes a proper scaley banger was





laying in my net. The fish went 23lb 2oz, Dan was summoned to do the pics and he seemed really pleased at the weights as the fish are doing really well. The rod was put straight back out on the spot, I then had a bit of breakfast before sorting my tackle box out (a job I keep putting off) then I tied fresh hook baits up ready for when I rebait later this afternoon. That night England were playing so instead of watching the water which I have done every night I have fished here I would be making an exception tonight, well at least until after the football. Just as the second half started I got a slow take on the middle rod, I lifted into the fish and it felt good and stayed deep, it was fighting hard and I just could not get it up to the surface, then 40 yards out Infront of me it got snagged

on something!! I know it's definitely not weed so what's it snagged on?? I haven't a clue as nearly all the snags have been removed, unless it was a big branch. I put the rod back in the rest and waited to see if the fish took any line. I had to wait for 25 minutes

before the fish started to take line and after playing it for a further few minutes BANG!! The hook pulled. I was absolutely gutted as it felt like a real decent fish, but what it was snagged on is anyone's guess. I checked my end tackle and my hook link was shredded!! The hook had opened up ever so slightly, but was still needle sharp, so whatever it was done a good job!!

I replaced the rig and got the rod straight back out on the spot, and by this time the football was into



extra time, before we lost on penalties!! So, all in all it was a real poksey night, and the outside temperature had dropped to -2. I got back into my cabin to get warm and watch a bit of tele before retiring to bed. I woke the next morning early, it was still dark and the water looked like a pane of glass, there was not a single ripple in sight. The mist was dancing across the surface and you could hear the ducks waking up and making a right old racket. It was still freezing outside still -2 but I still sat out having my first coffee watching the water. Everything was iced up, the landing net was frozen solid, everything looked white. Just as I was on my second coffee the right-hand rod burst into life and scared the life out of me, my coffee went everywhere, I put the mug down



and lifted the rod, like all the fish in here it gave a good account of itself but after a few minutes a lovely mirror was in the net. The fish weighed in at 21lb 4oz and to be honest it softened the pain for the one I lost last night. I put the fish in the retainer whilst I got the rod back out then gave Dan a call. It wasn't long before Dan was round to do the photos and check the fish over.

With the photos complete the fish was returned, Dan went back to his swim and I spent the rest of the morning watching

the water in the freezing daytime temperatures.

Throughout the morning I kept getting liners but nothing materialised. Same process as always come the afternoon the rods were redone for my final night. It was still really cold and after sitting outside



for a few hours I decided to seek the warmth in my cabin. I got a couple of knocks through the night but that was it. Come morning the freezing fog had descended and I could not see more than 10 yards out, again everything was frozen solid and snow was forecast for tomorrow which for me would have been a blessing if I could stay, I have always wanted to catch a carp in the snow.

But unfortunately, I have to be back to work tomorrow, but again I have had another great session banking another 2 gems but I just cannot help thinking of the one I lost, but that's fishing I suppose.

It was nice to get the front Cover for the December issue with one of the gems from Creedence, such a shame that Dan didn't think so as Creedence wasn't mentioned. I don't get a say in who goes on the front cover that's down to the editors & owners of the magazine, so I can only apologise it was not my doing.

For more information on Creedence Fishery visit their Facebook page, you can also call Dan on 07882-083160

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

www.a2baits.co.uk

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Stay safe and remember its only fishing.

Scott "Geezer" Grant

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A Winter in Club Land

A photograph of a sunset over a body of water. The sun is low on the horizon, partially obscured by a line of dark, silhouetted trees. The sky is filled with soft, golden light, and the water in the foreground is calm, reflecting the sun and the trees. The overall mood is peaceful and quiet.

by John Morgan

Making the Most of Winters Light

Turn back time to the Winter of 2020 / 2021. In the midst of The Covid Pandemic, an uncertain World of chaos, conspiracies and a short Christmas release to see loved ones. The mandate at the time was areas of tiers and permission to fish as long as you were not travelling outside of your local area. Living in The Midlands as I do, doesn't leave you with a whole array of Winter fishing options unless you desire to fish moving water, often with the consistency and colour of hot chocolate. Most of the Rivers and Canals in my immediate area are controlled by local Clubs. But fortunately they also have several

Pools within their portfolios. These are mostly match type venues but as is the modern way, they were stocked with small Carp many years ago and in time these fish have somewhat grown on. There is one of these such Club waters not that far from where I live so I decided with my other Syndicate tickets being out of reach for the time being, I would spend a Winter on there, fishing mobile and reactive wherever possible.

The Pool was first dug around 1990, is approximately 5-6 acres in size and was owned originally by a local farmer whose wife used to patrol the banks collecting day ticket money. It was, to be

fair a bit of a free for all until a local Club got the rights to the fishing there. The Pool is a basic oval shape with a bank of Fir trees along the length of the near side (carpark) bank, with deeper water to your right on the bottom bank to around 8 - 9ft deep. It shallows up continuously to your left until you reach the opposite end where stands at around 2 feet. There a large island in central section of the pool which acts as its main feature with a few overhanging tree branches. These areas tended to attract the bulk of the day to day Angling attention.





runs, id
be trying
to make
the most
of the
Winters
Light....

Having fished the pool in the past I had been lucky enough to catch its previous two largest inhabitants before an unfortunate fish kill greatly reduced the stock. Fast forward several years and although I'd not been back to fish at all I knew it still contained Carp but how many and of what size I had no idea. The bulk of the old stock had always been Commons with the odd Mirror thrown in and hopefully this had remained the same. Time would be limited though, I'd only be fishing daylight hours and often between school

A Typical Common

My first session fell on a Tuesday, the weather was settled but cool. I managed to get to the Pool around 9.30 in the morning after navigating my way through all the school run traffic. There were already a few people fishing when I arrived but they were nicely spread out so space wasn't going to be a problem. Before setting up I decided to have a walk round, have a good look and try to get the feel for

the place again. I was hoping for a fish or two to give me a sign where to start out if I'm being honest.

After seeing nothing I opted to set up to the right of the Carpark, on the bottom bank in the deeper water. Fishing here also gave me a great view up the length of the Pool and either side of the Island where I could keep a watch for any signs of fish. One show in colder temperatures can be the tip of the ice berg so to speak, with a large shoal often hidden underneath. I was fishing off my barrow and ready to move at the drop of a hat should the need arise. I had little time as it was and was determined not to waste a second of it.

I put my two rods pretty much straight in front of my peg at about 30



the rods for the third time my left hand rod was away. A spirited fight later and my first Winter

Common. Things were going amazingly well for my first session. I was even seeing the odd fish roll over me by now.

yards, both fishing single pop ups followed by around twenty catapulted matching freebies. I kept my lines tight and my alarms at maximum sensitivity. I was fishing for liners and signs as much as a Carp to start with. My plan was simple, to give each rod an hour before moving them away from each other in an arch style pattern to try and cover as much water as possible, I would continue to rotate and move them around my swim if no action had occurred in the previous afternoon. Not long after moving

fish was in the net, a lovely Common Carp of 18lb.

I used the area the bite had come from as the centre point of my swim and put both rods a few feet either side of the spot. Another ten baits over the top of each rod and within the hour I was away again.

Another Common, this time slightly bigger at 18.08 The third fish followed shortly after, a 19lb

They were clearly well on the feed, I had got my location right and my approach of feeding a handful of boilies after each bite was working. I managed two more Commons on my first session of 20.02 and 18.08 before it was time to go. I fired the rest of my baits over the spot before I left and couldn't believe what a great start id had.



Sunshine is the Key

My second session was a week later, school run first with fingers crossed the whole journey the area I had caught from the previous week was still free. The weather was very similar temperature wise but with an added promise of Winter Sunshine forecasted. There were several cars already in the carpark as I arrived but to my relief the area I wanted was still free. I wasted no time in getting my rods straight back onto last week's hotspot



followed by a handful of boilies around each rod. It wasn't long before my alarms were again signalling a take. I knew from the off it was a decent fish, it bore down repeatedly just out of range of the landing net. After ten minutes of stalemate the rods test curve won

out and I netted my biggest fish so far and my second twenty pound Common of my mini Winter campaign

at 21.10 That was to be my only bite in the morning and as time crept on I became increasingly worried that the prolonged fight with the Carp had either spooked the fish or they just were not in that area any more. All the while the wind had been steadily building over the morning, pushing away from my bank towards the shallow end of the pool. In conjunction with ever strengthening sunshine I kept thinking how good the shallows were starting to look even though we were almost into





December. In the ever warming sunshine I saw the sign I'd been waiting for! a Carp slid out the water to the wrist of its tail without making a sound right in the sunlit shallows. I quickly loaded my barrow and made the move with only a few hours of daylight remaining (no afternoon school run this time!) I opted for the same approach as before, tight lines, spread rods and a few baits around each hook bait. I'd barely put the stove on for a much needed cup of

tea when I was away. In fact I was more than away, a double take within seconds of each other had me netting two Commons at 16.04 & 13.08. Trying to make the most of the short Winter feeding spells I had the rods back in the area in no time at all. I followed my first two fish with another brace of Commons at 15.10 & 18.15. I deposited around a kilo of boilies around each of the areas before I left. I was confident the fish were still in a feeding mood and wanted

to encourage this to continue for as long as possible.

Mirror Image

My third session came the following week, the drive saw me fretting the whole journey about what areas would be free and how busy the banks were. The weather was steadily getting cooler, with dull overcast conditions forecast for the day, hopefully keeping the masses away. I knew I had to be in the right areas to get amongst the fish. I'd only seen one other fish caught on my previous two trips and I was well aware how much location had played a part in my captures. The well-worn banks around the Pool were starting to get a little muddy by now which was actually starting to play into my hands. Most other



and a few casts trying to locate exactly where the fish had moved to when a Carp stuck its

on the surface early in the fight and it was with a huge relief when I slipped the net under my much sort after prize. My next two bites came and I upped my average size, the first a Common at 22.12 followed by a 27.12 As soon as I looked in the net I knew she was bigger than anything else I'd had so far and I was more than pleased. As day sessions go it would be pretty hard to beat. I was into a lovely groove by now, but without doubt the key was in getting the

Anglers turning up were choosing to fish along the carpark bank under the cover of the fir trees, well away from the worst of the mud and as it happens, well away from where the bulk of the fish seemed to be holding up. To my relief the peg I wanted was still free, I slipped and skidded my way to a firm piece of ground and flicked the rods straight towards the previous weeks hotspot. I was sure with the conditions the mirror image of my first session the fish would still be there. I spent a few fruitless hours

head out a little further out than I was fishing and gave the game away. Before long I was smiling for the camera with another flurry of Commons of 15.08 & 17.10 followed by a rare Mirror of 17.06 which I saw roll



precise location correct on each visit. As I was starting to pack away two chaps I'd spoken to earlier that morning asked if they could move in behind me as my five fish had been the only bites around the Pool all day. Good angling on their part and I wished them luck as I departed.

Not as Simple as it Sounds

I didn't managed to return until several weeks later and really it was more for a bit of a social with my best friend Daz. A more maligned Angler it would be hard to find. If any misfortune could befall a Carp Fisherman, it would happen to him. Unfortunately due to families and work commitments we don't get out together more than once or twice a

year nowadays. I'd spent the previous week extolling the virtues of this particular Winter venue to him. "It's simple mate you'll love it, find a few fish, pop up with a few baits over the top and your away" only for us both to eventually end on a blank. It's never quite as simple as it sounds this Carp Fishing lark.

We did manage to find a few fish towards the late afternoon in the shallows in the weak Winter sun. We both had liners then Daz had a screaming run,

true to form though he had unbelievably managed somehow to foul hook a mid-double Common. Never the less we still both enjoyed a day's angling and each other's company. Time well spent indeed.

Mud, Mud and more Mud

I was back on my own for my next session a few days before Christmas. No school run due to the kids all being off for the



holidays meant a rare early start. I slogged my way round the muddy banks in the early light and set myself up on the bottom bank, in the deeper water once again. It was a great starting point and I was always on the lookout for Carp signs elsewhere. Although by now there were only really two areas I was interested in. The deeper water to the right of the carpark on the bottom bank and the shallower water at the other end if the conditions were right. The fish seemed to move between the two areas very much dependant on the weather. Sunshine naturally seemed to push them towards the shallows and dull and overcast days kept them on the whole in the deeps. I say on the whole, as it was another very dull,

overcast and rainy day that saw me still bite less that morning and into the early afternoon. I'd seen nothing to make me want to move and was struggling for inspiration. A guy to my right had caught one fishing tight to overhanging branches coming off the island but it seemed he'd just nicked an opportune fish by fishing a single bright pop up in an area of cover.

With only a few hours of daylight left I thought I'd try the move towards the shallows. I had nothing to lose, apart from my boots in the mud that was. It really was atrocious by now. My gear was covered and I was covered. Everywhere



was just mud, mud and more mud. I flicked two rods out to the area I'd caught from in the sunshine several weeks before followed by a few baits and in the last few fading hours of the short afternoon i managed three mid to upper double commons ranging from 16lb - 18lb before I finally lost the light completely. The fish were clearly not playing by the rules. Staying towards the shallows even without the warmth

of the Sun. I was glad I had made the effort, without the move my session would have most certainly ended in a blank.

Snow Carp

It's was exactly a week later and I was once again pushing my bank sticks into the now familiar peg on the right hand bottom bank. I absolutely adore The Christmas period but after a week of festive eating and drinking myself silly it was nice to be out angling again and getting some fresh air even if the weather forecast for the day very cold with possible heavy Snow showers. I had a mid-double common after a hour or so to my left rod, not that far from my left hand margin. With that in mind I positioned both rods in that vicinity as I

was still rotating the rods, always trying to find the Carps exact location. The snow showers had arrived by now, the flakes were coming down thick and heavy when the bobbin on my righthand rod pulled up tight and I was away. The entire fight took place in a very surreal snow storm. I dipped the net under a lovely looking Common just shy of the 20lb mark surround by a very Wintery Landscape. Tick the snow Carp off the bucket list! I

was to have one more bite that session but unfortunately I was to lose my first fish of the Winter, after a dogged fight the fish slipped the hook not far from the bank. Even with that loss the muddy trudge back to the van didn't seem quite so bad that day, I had caught a fabled snow Carp after all !

*Rods, Bait,
Wait and
Rotate*



With February now fast approaching I knew I only had time for a few more trips before I'd be off to pastures new for the Spring. Three weeks after my last trip saw me on another day session in my now favourite banker peg in the deeper water. Rods, bait, wait and rotate. Like a well-oiled machine. I was into a lovely rhythm. I knew the rough area the fish would be hiding. It was just a case of exact location. You could be a few feet away and yet not receive a single bleep, you'd have no idea the fish were there. But get it right and multiple bites were a real possibility.

Three more fish came my way that session including a cracking Common of 22.08 followed very unusually by two mid-sized Bream. I can only imagine the bait had attracted the attentions

of a shoal of Bream and pushed the Carp out of the area.

My Last Session

The whole Country was suffering from a severe cold snap. The Pool froze over and I was worried the fishing would suffer with the freezing melt water turning the Carp completely off the feed. I popped back as soon as I felt it would be warm enough to have melted the ice but was greeted by only a small area that was currently fishable and wobbly. I set up anyway and gave it a few hours even though it was a fair bit away from my usual hot zone. Unbelievably a Carp actually rolled in the ice free zone. I immediately

flicked both my rods straight at it but my bobbins remained motionless. Even with my location spot on it seemed it was either too cold still or they had totally switched off. My last session was right at the end of January, I was determined not to *end my mini Winter Campaign with two Bream followed by a blank. It was back to being a short In-between school-run day session. Amazingly on arrival my little area was again free of other anglers. Anybody else turning up seemed to stick to the carpark bank and cast towards*



the overhanging branches hanging off the Island, which also happily happened to not involve the navigation of all the mud. I stuck to my muddy guns, casting around hoping to find the fish still in the deeper water. If I could coax one bite it would very often be followed by one or two more. You have to maximise on the short feeding windows in the Winter but more importantly you have to locate the Carp first. Today was no different, several hours of roving the rods and one bite followed another in relatively short order. Resulting in another two of the usual stamp of Commons, the best being a shade under 17lb which proved to be my last fish of the Winter.

Wonderful
Winter

In this post Covid World where syndicate tickets are at an all-time premium. Where Waiting lists of five years plus on many lakes are the norm and peoples mental health is hugely relatable to outdoor pursuits. It's worth having a good look around for club waters to fish. They may not contain any giants by today's standards, but maybe they do contain quieter banks and a freedom to fish in your own way. Smaller more achievable targets where it's you against the fish more than you against your fellow angler. You may be surprised what's swimming in these waters if you give them the time and effort they deserve. It's not all about catching 30's and 40's or trying to chase the King or Queen of a Pond. There's something

to be said about just angling purely for the enjoyment of it. No targets or goals in mind, just fishing for the next bite. I ended up doing nine day sessions, managing twenty six bites in total, including:

x1 lost fish
x2 bream
x23 Carp

They included:
x18 Carp ranging between 14lb – 20lb (including the one Mirror)

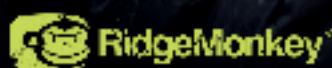
X5 Twenties going up to 27.12

I started in mid-November and finished at the end of January.

Not bad for a few Winter days on a local Club Water.

Tight Lines

John.



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RIG OR PRESENTATION?
BY ANDY MURRAY

Hi all, now the New Year is well and truly in, how are you doing with your New Year resolutions? Whilst I no longer make resolutions, I tend to have a January where I drink a bit less and renew my acquaintance with the gym on a more regular basis. Now that my work plans for the year are in place, family holidays booked, I can start to think about starting to get out and night fish again. Once the nights start to draw out a bit and it's a bit lighter, I want to be out on the bank, it's not so much the cold, it's just the long hours of darkness that put me off winter fishing. As I have mentioned in my last few articles, over the last few months I have spent a fair bit of time sorting out my gear, I have continued this by the addition of thinning out my tackle

boxes and bags hugely to a much smaller compact Korda box and bags amongst other things, it's very cathartic on a cold January afternoon, when I don't have much else to do. The work trimming my gear down and not to have quite so much gear to trail around with me whether home or abroad should make my sessions a lot easier this year.

Whilst sorting through my bags and now tackle boxes and the huge amounts of bits I have accrued over some 35 years of fishing, it has occurred to me I keep most of it because of something I have tried in the past, but no longer really use, that could be true for the most of us I guess. Given how I fish now, even abroad, most of my stuff is fairly basic and doesn't

need the many boxes of bits I carry around. When I did take a long hard look at the set-ups I use, I didn't need two thirds of the stuff I was carrying around. So, having thinned down my tackle more in line with how I fish, this month I thought I would run through some of the rigs I use and will be using this coming year. Unless some kind soul shows me some new all-singing, all-dancing new wonder-rig...I'll wait...I think a lot of anglers could do with going back to basics occasionally and think about what rigs they use and why, it seems to me a lot just automatically stick on some form of Spinner rig and/or a pop-up and never give it another thought. Whilst it's true the spinner type rigs work, I'm sure some catch in spite of their use and not because of

their use.

I know we use the term rigs mostly, I tend to prefer the word presentation. Because that's what we are doing isn't it? Presenting a hookbait in such a way it might be taken by a carp and then once taken, hook said carp, then be strong enough to land that carp with breaking or pulling out. So, let's take a look at how I look to present my hookbait and what set-ups I will be using for the majority of my fishing this coming year.

I know I said talk about rigs, let's start with the lead set up and the bit before the rig, which is the last bit of leader. I prefer to use leadcore to tubing for the last 2-3 feet. This is not to fool wary carp that may bump into it, with a hundred yards of line out, the last bit is on the bottom anyway. So why leadcore? It's to protect the carp if it rubs along them during the fight. I prefer leadcore to tubing as it doesn't ride up the line as tubing can if it gets caught up on

anything whilst playing carp. I prefer to use a pendant type set-up lead these days, in my early days of fishing I did prefer inline lead set ups, as they tended to be more tangle proof and also gave a great instant bolt effect. What I found over the years was that what was the carp weren't always running off, particularly if they had been caught a few times. If they don't run off and are just pricked as opposed to well hooked, then they can spit the bait and hook without giving any



indication at all. With a pendant lead set-up and tight line there is allowance for some movement around the lead, which if my indicators are set correctly will give me some indication of a fish on. Even if I don't get a run, I know something is occurring and can then make changes. Now for the different hooklink set-ups-Combi-rig. This is usually my go to presentation that I will have set-up on my rods, I must add as a starting point only though. Using a 5-to-

7-inch Gemini stiff link and 2-3 inches of very supple braid with a hook attached with a knotless knot, finished off with a small piece of silicon tubing on the hook to hold the hair in the correct place.

There are a number of different types of hook and set up you can use with this. I would usually use a size 6 for UK fishing and a size 4 for fishing abroad I like, you can see the type of hook I am using, I prefer the straight shank hooks for this, with a slightly inturned

eye, but everyone has their own favourites. There are times when I think a rig ring instead of the Silicone tubing might be more effective to hold the hair in place. Also varying the size of hookbait to use, I tend to prefer dumbbell wafers or trimmed down pop-ups or wafers, or two small hookbaits, one pop-up one bottom bait. I am looking for some form of balanced bait most of the time with this set-up. One of the things I always think about is the distance I am casting, fancier or



more delicate rigs don't cast well in my opinion. A lot of my fishing is done at 100-120 yards, using rig rings or small swivels held in place by stops don't react well to this, especially if having to recast a few times, it's the same with specially sharpened hooks, in my opinion, they are one cast hooks, not repeatedly for drawing back over gravel beds. So, I opt for knowing the rig and hook is set up how I want it to be. There are a few reasons I like the

combi rig, firstly its very tangle proof, very important when casting at range. Second reason is that it lays the hookbait away from the lead, so when the carp mouths the bait it takes hold straight away, this obviously doesn't work so well if you are wanting the carp to have a bit of freedom with the hookbait, then a more flexible hooklink might be your choice. One final thing, when winter fishing, adding a few maggots to a wafter or small pop-up on this

type of rig can really make the difference, especially with a few handfuls of maggots in your mix.

PVA bags. I mostly always look to fish a PVA bag on one rod, sometimes on all rods, depending on the water I am fishing and the distance I am fishing. When I look at my catch rates for last year, if I hadn't been using a PVA bag in my sessions, I might have struggled for a bite on some of those sessions.



I use the small PVA bags from Castaway PVA, coupled with their cable ties, they make bag work very easy to do. You can see from the set up, I use a 3oz to 3.5oz flat inline pear lead. I use the small links from Gemini tackle, this way I can get a few bags tied up in advance, which I need to do if getting a few bites, just tie a bag up and attach to a clip. I tend to fill the bags with small pellets that have dry stick mix added to them and/or a few chopped boilies. This year I have plans to use a few more liquids in my bags with some

goodies from Key Baits Solutions team, I'll keep you advised on how I do with this. I like to use a short hooklink, 3-4 inches, a small sharp hook, again with a piece of Silicone to hold the hair in place. I have played around with using rig-rings to hold the bait in place, but I wasn't happy that I was always getting the best results. What I will say with bag fishing, is play around with the size and shape of hookbait, but preferably a small trimmed pop-up or odd shaped wafer, in these circumstances it is just an easy carrier for the hook I am looking for.

It's definitely worth using bags a lot more and playing around with the types of filling.

Stiff Hinge Pop-up rig. This is my go to Pop-up rig, I look to use a pop-up mainly when fishing over silkweed or a very choddy lake bed, just so the hook and hookbait is clear of the bottom and is not impeded going into the Carps mouth. I prefer to use a semi-stiff hooklink of around 5-6 inches and a short curved piece of very stiff Mono. I see a lot of various ways of attaching the bait, but I think mounted tight to the hook is best, this way I feel it mimics what we used to call the bent hook rig, the way it works is that the carps lower lip causes the bait and hook to swivel round and hook into the same bottom lip (sounds like a Spinner rig to me!).



You can tell this is working correctly, firstly if you catch a carp, which may seem obvious, but then looking to see where it is hooked, that is bang in the middle of the bottom lip. If the carp is hooked in the scissors, then most types of pop-up would have worked anyway. I always take note of where in the mouth the carp is hooked as it may point to small changes that need making for the future. I tend to fish this 1 or 2 inches off the lake bed depending on the make up of the lake bed. I use a size 6 for UK fishing and a size 4 for fishing abroad. As with all pop-up fishing it can pay to play with the colour used, if using a fair bit of bait, I will usually use the same colour as the bait I am using but I may tip it with a piece of plastic corn if

I feel it's needed. As a rover I might look to go high attract on colour and flavour as in the picture.

Zig rig. I only used Zigs a few times last year but when I did, they produced bites when not much was happening. In the past I have mainly used very small pieces of foam, sometimes the smaller the better. This year I plan on playing around with Zigs a bit more, the one pictured here is the Liquirig, I am not sure at this stage if the plastic is a if this works the same at range as is with my opinion on other rigs.

One of the things about Zig fishing is to play around with the depths, and I mean a lot! If the carp are about and you get the depth right, you will get bites. In the spring time I will start just under the surface

and work my way down in depth, whereas in Autumn and winter, it might be a foot or two off the bottom. Now, here's the things... I see a lot of anglers fishing with Zigs using a knotless knot, thin line for hooklinks and using a loop to attach the link to the lead set-up, that's 3 weak points. So here are my tips-I use a palomar knot to attach the hook instead of the knotless knot, this gives double line through the hook, that's one weak point removed. Secondly, don't use 8lb hooklink just because it might be seen as the thing to do. I use 15lb Fox Zig link, I have not had a breakage yet and I fish weedy snaggy waters, it doesn't put the carp off either, the other advantage of this is that I am less likely to get tangles with longer depths of Zig as the stiffer link flies through

hinderance or not, but time will tell. I like the fact that the foam size and shape can be altered as well as soaking with flavours. The tank tests look impressive with liquid oozing out, I'm not sure points, and a lot of carp are lost. It pays to beef up this whole set-up and lose the weak the air better. Thirdly, instead of using a loop to attach to the lead set-up, use a small swivel as in the picture, this is the weakest part of a zig set-up especially with 8-10lb hooklink material. The other think with Zigs, is the choice of colour, sometimes it needs to be standing out and in their face, other times plain black is the best option, even at night. It's the same with flavouring the Zig, I'm not always sure which is best. But sometimes tipping the hook with a couple of maggots or

the tip of a worm can make the difference. If you are going to try Zigs then get inventive and make changes on a regular basis.

So, a handful of rigs that I use for most of my fishing, I'm not saying these are all I use but they are the mainstay of my fishing. I am sure others will fish differently and may disagree with some of my points, that's ok, I can live with that, we all have our different opinions. I have put

a picture in of a 55lb Mirror carp I caught a few years ago, the baiting situation brought the carp in but a basic old fashioned (as it was called at that time), very strong rig landed that carp from 200 yards away. The real key with all of these is to get the bait and baiting situation right, that makes the rig-set-up more effective. I am going to cover some of these in my next articles. Catch you next time.

Andy



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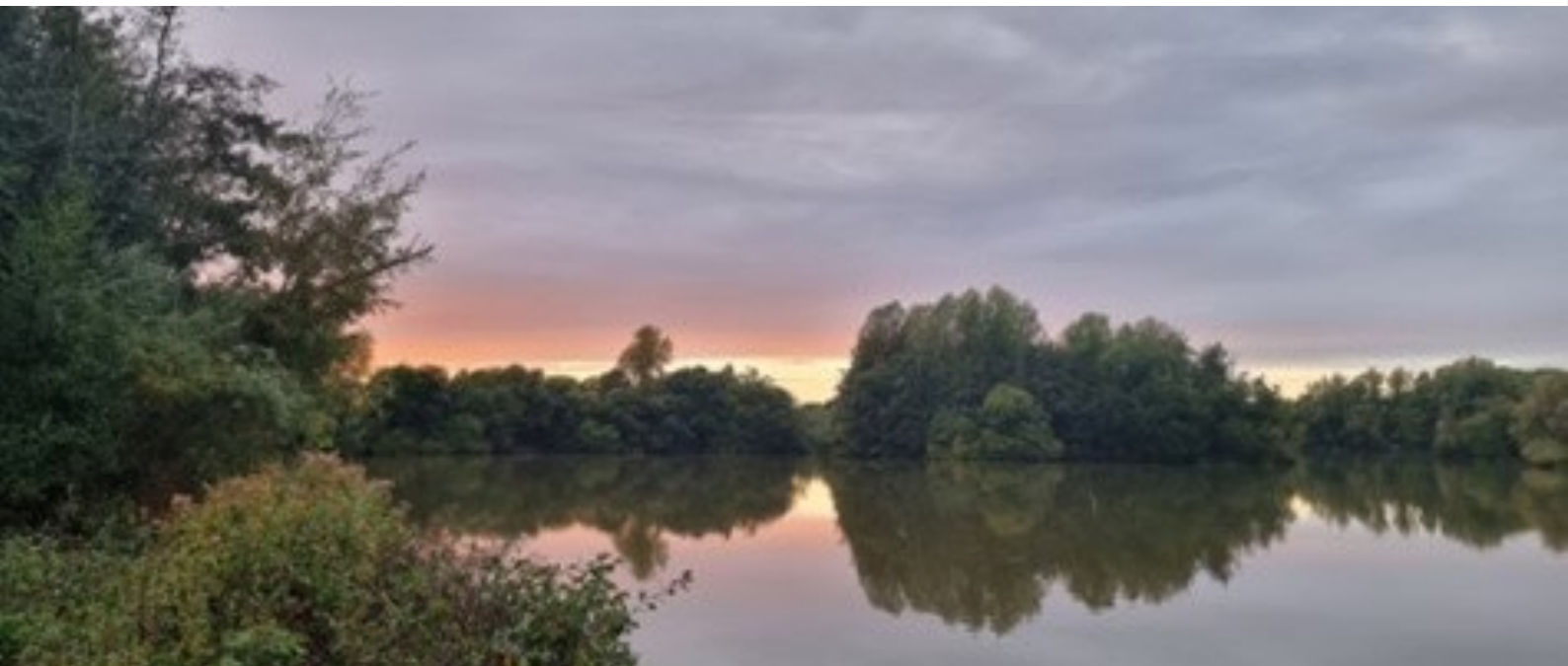
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AUTUMN ON THE AIRFIELD LAKE PART 3
BT RICHARD HANDEL



Things were certainly all coming together as they sometimes do with fishing, the momentum just keeps building. We both couldn't make the second to last weekend, due to family stuff and weren't sure if both of us could make the last weekend at the end of October. So, we just treated each trip as our last one.

I wasn't due to arrive until Friday morning, but with the carp coming out mostly at night, it was worth setting up in the dark on Thursday evening. I couldn't arrive any earlier due to family stuff going on this afternoon.

Ian had called earlier this morning and take the choice of the swim and after last week's success, we felt it was worth another go in that area.

My infrared light lights up the rods, but to be honest, it's more about lightning up the steps down into the lake as I get older!

I was halfway through setting up and Ian's left-hand rod was away with the first fish of the trip and hopefully not the last. The fight was slow and steady and a lovely Common slipped into the net.

He was pleased with that and it filled us both with hope for the coming few nights. Just before 1am, I woke to a big splash in the margins. I poked my head out the bivvy door and yep sure enough Ian was into a nice carp, I did the netting.

A lovely 30 lber it was as well. He was over the moon, as Airfield 30's can be a bit hard to find

some years. I was sitting on his bucket chatting and sorting out the photography and my right-hand rod was away! I was very mindful of the overhanging branches that got me last week, along with the underwater snag. I soon had the carp in the margins, then all I had to do was simply played the carp out and slip it into the net when it was ready.

20lb 5oz

Perfect start, I was still buzzing from Ian having a 30 and I had just landed my first trip of the session. Another PVA bag was done, I flicked it back out there and thought I better try and get some sleep, as you never know.

I woke to a screaming run at 0845. I must have finally fallen asleep last night but



it was gone past 3am I know that. The carp was on a real mission to my right and probably rolled on the surface in front of the swim Ian fished last week, I coaxed it along the margins and into the weighing net.

We both baited up around 11 o'clock with a few more kilos of Classic Corn and Catalyst boilies, and stuck new hook baits on for the coming afternoon and evening. I'm using my normal Ronnie rig set up with

a 20mm wafter, a short hooklink conjunction with a Pva bag filled with 6mm Catalyst pellets. These have been soaking in Spotted Fin food dip for a few weeks. I very much like to prep my boilies and pellets, a couple of weeks in advance and start the next batch going on the day I get back from each session.

The day passed by with a couple of glasses of wine and some brie on the Weber.

It was all very peaceful on the carp front, we were hoping for a later afternoon/early evening take.

As the sun was setting, it was looking like we were out of luck. I was out and about taking photographs of the moon rising. Along with the fantastic cloud formations when Ian's right-hand rod burst into life.

That will do, a nice 8pm take, when we are both up and about. The fish was definitely on a mission to the right and no doubt towards those overhanging trees to my right. We thought that it had avoided my lines, until it ran back towards Ian under my lines that it had gone over. Joy!

I loosened off my line and netted the carp. We quickly got it in the sling and put it in the

right-hand rod which had been sitting there since 8am Thursday morning. This fish headed off right, but with some gentle persuasion was soon in the net.

Forgot to take the head touch-off, but you can see the rain lashing down still. It's due to finish around 2100 hrs and the winds will slowly die away and swing around to more westerly, giving me a lot more shelter, I hope.

The next bite was back on the left-hand rod again, once I had pulled into the fish and gained some ground, it immediately ran towards me and was going for the left-hand margins. I held firm and it headed my way and was soon in the net. It was about 12lb and I was glad the rain had more or less passed over now. With

another single hook bait on, the rod was back out there once again.

My next take was about 2115 and on the right-hand rod. This carp kited left, and then as I was gaining ground, it absolutely ripped off back out into the darkness. I finally coaxed it towards the lake, the last thing we needed was one of my rod's going off. Once the tangled lines were sorted out, we got the carp on the scales.

That's not bad going, 2 x 20s and a 30lber all before 8pm on the second night! Ian was well-chuffed.

Just after 1 am, Ian was on again. I arrived just in time to do the net duties and he slipped yet another stonking carp over the cord.

Weightlifting time! 26lb 8oz

He is having a fantastic session and I'm glad to be on the net and doing the photos.

This to me is just as enjoyable as catching the fish yourself.

Somehow the moment filters across.

Around 11pm Ian had this lovely Common on the repositioned left-hand rod.

I was up about doing some filming when Ian was away again! I was able to film him playing the carp and landing it. It very nearly got into the overhanging trees along his left margins, the ends of the branches were twitching away as he guided the carp under them. With his rod well under the water, it eventually slipped into the net.

His rod was out again

and the coffee was made. We sat in the sunshine in Ian's swim talking about the possibility of him catching fish no 7. This will be his best session with the number of carp and definitely with the size of fish he had been catching.

The same rod was away again, he was into fish no7.

This was brilliant. After a pretty straightforward battle, involving me picking up his other rod and holding it in the air until the carp was safely in the margins. I did joke that he didn't need two rods as all the takes had come on the same rod.

This is really turning into a red letter day trip for him and with another 24 hours to go, he could easily get 10 carp.

We had breakfast at around 11pm, along with another brew. The time was coming up to around 1230 and we were thinking about when to start spombing the last of the bait out (after Ian's success last night), when my left-hand rod was away!

The fish was on the surface rolling about on the surface about 60 yards out and it continued to do this all the way in until it got closer to the net and then, just went down. It stayed there for some time, I was even hopeful this was going to be a nice lump, but

you really can't tell with the big tails these carp have.

Once in the net, it did look good and after lifting out of the water and carrying it to the mat, I was feeling confident.

I was overjoyed with another 30-plus carp from the Airfield Lake. I generally aim for 1 a season, I now was on to number 3, I just can't believe my luck this month.

As the sun was setting and in the fading light of the day, we are full of expectations for the coming 12 hours. It



extremely nice if Ian can make the number 10 carp, plus if I can bag at least one more, this would also be nice. We shall just have to wait and see. We have topped up the swim, and redone the rigs, we can only hope. We are due another clear night and the pressure is slowly rising, but it's mid-October and they need to feed.

The first take of the night, came to my left-hand rod, just before 10pm and this fish wasn't giving up very easily. It was also extremely interested in my margins to my right, but slowly and surely I gained ground and it was in the net.

I didn't weigh the carp but estimated it at about 12lber. You wouldn't have thought that it could have that much power, it certainly goes to show

you that you can't always tell the size until you get them into the net.

The fish was soon back in the lake, with my rod cast back out with another fresh Classic Corn wafter on. At 1130 pm, the same rod was away again. I was still wide awake and quickly out to grab the rod. This one was just running out, further into the open water. I was even considering slowing down, by now

I normally have started to walk backward, gently coaxing them straight into my swim. I do my best to avoid them kitting right or left, but this fish was having none of that. Eventually, it started coming my way, once under the rod tip it made a few lunges and took a lot of line at one point, always heading back out into the lake and off to my right, but I gained control again and soon had it in the net



That will certainly do me. It was definitely getting colder tonight and Ian was quickly off to the warmth of his sleeping bag. I soon had the rod back out and was pleased to get back in my bag.

By 3 am, Ian had landed another 2 carp, 8lber, and a 16lber. Unfortunately, no photographs as he was feeling the cold from the northwest winds and the rolling mist. He now had had 9 carp and just 1 more to make double figures. After the last two nights, there's a good chance that he would manage this, fingers crossed for the next bite.

It's 0550 and Ian's done it! He has landed fish No10 and it's another 20lber to this list.

Perfect, what more

could you ask for from this session? It's truly been amazing on all counts. We have around 5 hours left to go and then it's home time. After the last two years of disappointing October sessions, we can't complain about it this year.

It's another lovely misty morning and I am sure the sun will be poking its head above the trees very soon. I have a coffee on the go and I'm still in the bag, watching the water and just enjoying the moment. Fishing is such a magical

experience.

I was halfway through packing up and the left-hand rod rattled off. The fight was just perfect, all under the rod tip in the margins, and slipped perfectly into the net.

What a way to finish off this session! We both couldn't have wanted for more – brilliant company, great food & drink and best of all, a good number of carp landed.

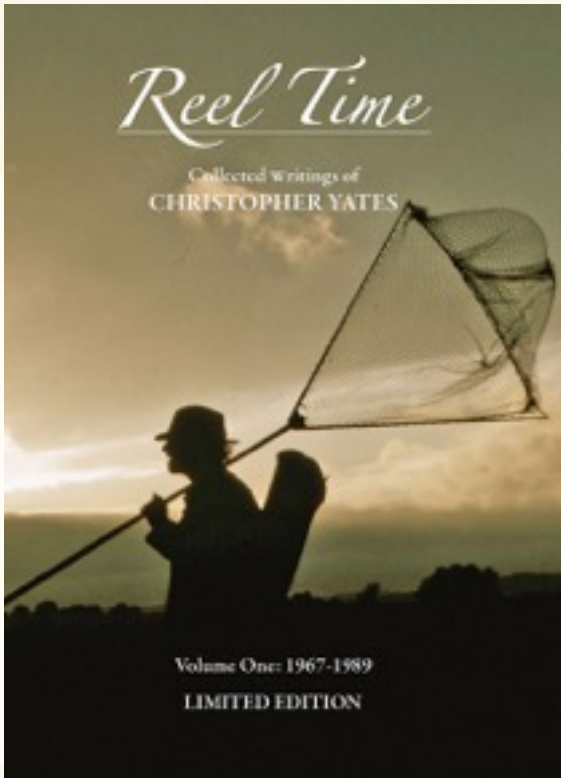
Until next time

Richard



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Reel Time

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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.

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Greetings from a rather warm Mozambique! I would like to introduce myself to the members of this Facebook page, and appreciate anyone who has taken some time-out to read this story. I don't mean to go on about myself, but the first few paragraphs below I hope will help explain my philosophy and drive with regards to developing the first freshwater, catch & release, fishery in Mozambique.

My name is Dave Charley, and I'm a Brit who has been living in this wonderful country for the past two decades, having arrived here as a 25yr old scuba diving instructor back in 2002. I fell in love with the place & the people instantly, and it certainly helped that the coastline was full of Manta rays and Whale sharks. The pristine reefs were swarming with all sorts of aquatic life, an untouched world where every species seem to thrive in abundance. Days were filled with unforgettable experiences, swimming alongside Whale sharks (the world's biggest fish) averaging between 7m - 12m!

After a couple of years I set up the first company in Mozambique to specialize in underwater imagery. Now my daily routine was to film divers and their interactions with these incredible mega fauna. Being so involved in the ocean over many years, I began to witness first-hand the destructive consequences of illegal fishing along the coastline and decline in fish stocks and the richness of the reefs. In 2010 I made a documentary with WWF to highlight the plight of sharks worldwide using Mozambique as a case study (<https://vimeo.com/28539793/description>).

During the 3 years it took to make this film, one of the most profound experiences was witnessing the daily routine of coastal communities dragging in huge seine nets onto the beaches, often 13 - 15 people hauling at the same time. The results were always meager, rarely exceeding half a bucket full of tiny juvenile fish, squid and crabs.

was apparent that if these precious marine resources were to have any sort of future, there needed to be a better utilization of the freshwater lakes and lagoons, to try and reduce the incessant fishing pressure on the coastal species.

This experience led me to set-up a Tilapia fish farm, producing protein for the local markets from lakes, rather than depleting the ocean resources. After a period of five years (sometimes incredibly trying years!) we were successfully producing 1-2 tons a month for the markets. Using intensive cage production, we could grow upto 25kgs of fish per cubic metre, and all the hard work was beginning to finally pay off.

However, in the fifth year we received some 'health certified' fish, which turned out to have an incurable virus called TiLV. The result: five years of hard work lost and fish farm closed down.

This was a bitter pill to swallow, both mentality & financially. However I was very fortunate be offered an opportunity to help develop a small fish farm and assist with the management of a magificently beautiful fishery back in the UK. Twice annual trips, for a couple of months at a time, gave me the opportunity to implement extensive production methods, focusing on creating optimal aquatic conditions for the desired species to thrive in, which in this case was Tench & Crucian carp. It was marvelous to be working with nature again, rather than trying to push nature to it's limits. Within the first year we produced hundreds of healthy juveniles from a small, but rich, breeding pond without any feed inputs.

We developed a long-term fishery management plan that focused on improving the ecosystem, including planting hundreds of marginal plants and macrophytes, along with netting the lake to reduce unwanted biomass. It was incredible how quickly the fishery was reporting the biggest fish captures in years. It was also wonderful to be able to go fishing again regularly, catching a variety of species, but mostly my beloved carp. I'd certainly missed this being in Africa for two decades, and how the fishing scene had transformed and grown whilst I'd been away!

The work was so rewarding, but my wife and dogs were back home in Mozambique, and being away from them for such periods of time was never going to be a long-term option. Then one day I received a call from a former national director of fisheries in Mozambique, asking if I might be interested in working as a technical consultant at the Centre of Aquaculture Research. Although going back into intensive fish production wasn't what I ideally want to do, it gave me the chance to be working with fish again in Mozambique. The work place was 5hrs from my home, but they agreed to 10 days onsite, 5 days remote working from home. I said yes and began my new job in October 2020.

This is really where the fishery management story actually begins! My work just happened to be situated 5kms away from a friend of mine who also had a Tilapia fish farm. So whilst my working hours were spent managing a team of 14 staff and trying to meet the target of producing 2 million Tilapia fingerlings each year for aquaculture production, my free time ended up be almost entirely spent developing a recreational fishery just down the road.

Within a month of arriving at this new place, Piet, my friend and owner of the fish farm, offered to build me a grow out pond after we discussed the idea of bringing in some carp. This was just too exciting to be true. And yet he called me over a few days later and there was an excavator, busy building a 25m x 25m grow-out pond!



Grow-out pond under construction



2.5m trench due to subtropical climate

Piet had plans in place to build two large reservoirs at the top of his farm, which would provide water to his aquaculture ponds if any droughts were to occur. We had already chatted that one of these could eventually be for the carp. A private carp fishing dam, in Mozambique, I was almost overwhelmed by that prospect!

At this point my thoughts began to paint a bigger picture, why not turn both dams into Mozambique's first freshwater fishery?! I felt confident that my knowledge & experience would help in creating a rich, thriving venue, and they had the land and infrastructure in place and ready to go. We met and discussed the business proposal. Piet and the team were very enthusiastic by the prospect, and we soon ended up signing an MoU between us. We were going to create the first recreational fishery in Mozambique!

The excavators began the ground work for the dams in late November, knowing that the rainy season was a few months away, and could easily make such work impossible for a couple of months at least. I became obsessed in noting everything native and aquatic. I was very fortunate to have use of a company car, with 4x4, so I would drive off to every river, stream and puddle of water to examine what was living there.



Soon to be Mozambique's first freshwater fishery . . .

My first plan of action was to populate the grow out pond with as much life, and potential food source for the carp, as possible. I discovered freshwater mussels (*Mutela zambeziensis*), a variety of snails (*Lymnaea natalensis* & *Gryaulus costulatus*), shrimp (*Caridina nilotica*) and even

some small fish, as carp also eat fish! These species would need habitat and protection to thrive in, so that meant planting marginal reeds (Phragmites australis), bulrushes (Typha capensis), along with Blue water lilies (Nymphaea nouchali) and an abundance of macrophytes like Fennel-leaved pondweed (stockenia pectinatus), Curly water thyme (Lagarosiphon major) & Common hornwort (Ceratophyllum demersum) The baby carp would be arriving mid-March, so time was of the essence to establish a rich aquatic home before their introduction.



Carp food! Zambezi river mussels, common pond snails & freshwater shrimp

In Africa things can be somewhat different to Europe. Whereas these plants and species back in Europe would be purchased from a supplier with ease, there's nothing like that over here. So, I would ask a staff member or two to collect mussels from our production ponds when they were drained down. This had to be done fairly quickly, otherwise the seemingly insatiable African Openbilled storks would beat us to them all! I would wade (without waders) into leech filled canals to collect lilies, fernal leaf weed & hornwort.



Planting Blue water lilies into grow-out pond



Macrophytes & marginals establishing nicely

I even found myself pulling out weed from the banks of a large dam, a bumpy three hour drive away, that has some huge resident crocodiles. Safety never takes a day off they say! It was at this huge expanse of water that I caught a few small Tigerfish over a weekend, but more on that later. . .

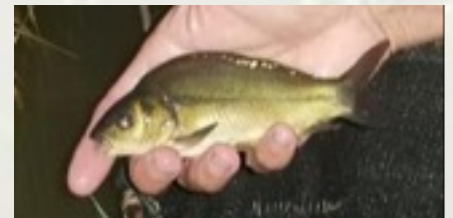
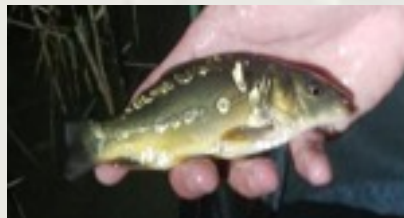


Safety never takes a day off . . .



Catching a small Tigerfish

Mid-March 2021 finally arrived and the big day was upon us, we were going to receive our 100 carp & 5 Grass carp. Nothing is really close in Africa, so their journey began at 07:30, and they were lovingly released into the grow out pond at 20:30. The genetics had landed!



At this point I think it's worth expanding on the excitement of the fish we had received. During my time involved with fishery management in the UK, we had purchase ten, 2yr old, leney strain carp, averaging 2lbs. The fish we received here in Mozambique have a track record of growing over half a pound a month! Obviously the sub-tropical climate plays a huge part in these numbers, with the water temperatures ranging between 18C - 32C throughout the year. These carp also originated from a genetic line of fish that have exceeded 40kg's.

The project was beginning, and the excitement was building . . .

Part two of the African Adventure to follow soon.

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Reviews

Featuring -

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THE GOM - MARK CARPER

FISHING TABLE - ANTHONY WOOD

ZIG FISHING - ANTHONY WOOD

D.T. BAITS BAIT RELEASE



MIMICKER Hook link

Review by Mark Carper

Coated or Uncoated Braid...?

A simple question, or is it..?!

We all know what a 'Coated' Braid is and similarly, we also know what an 'Uncoated' Braid is, but what is a Braid when it's coated in a Braid... it's 'Mimicker' of course...!

mimicker

/ˈmɪmɪkə/

noun

a person who imitates someone or their actions or words, especially in order to entertain or ridicule.

"as a mimicker of voices I am unrivalled"

an animal or plant that imitates the behaviour or actions of another.

"lyrebirds are magnificent mimickers of other birds and noises"

a disease that exhibits symptoms that bear a deceptive resemblance to those of another disease.

"a mimicker of dementia is severe depression"

... and Katran **MIMICKER** is in a class on its' own and definitely "First in Class" when it comes to innovation and design....

What is Katran Mimicker...?

Katran took their Premium uncoated **KORUND** Braid Hook Link (to be fair, everything that Katran produce is 'Premium') and via a new and innovative manufacturing process, they "threaded it through an authentic **Weed Sleeve**" ...!!

This 'sleeve' then allows for natural movement in the water just like other aquatic vegetation....

Why Use Mimicker...?

Reviews



The reason for its creation is mainly down to research they conducted regarding fish that are "rig shy".... it is evident that over time many of the specimen Carp we seek to catch are also very weary and very nervous and on pressured waters this can be very apparent at times.

They seem to become aware that if they take a bait from a rig where the line is visible it will result in them being dragged around the water for the next twenty minutes or so and as a result the bigger specimen fish shy away from visible rigs, or so it appears anyway...?!

MIMICKER can add to the "confidence" thing that we all crave and having confidence in the rig is a key factor to allow you to sit behind the rods without panicking what's happening out in the depths in front of you....

Added Attraction...

Moreover, MIMICKER can absorb the 'smell' of any Glug, Dip, Liquid etc. and release it over a prolonged period, but without compromising the incredible Camouflage properties it was originally designed for...now that has to be attractive to the carp, doesn't it..?

Katran is proud to have designed the Mimicker and feel it is something that can add to that 'edge' we are all looking for.



Tying

From my experience, tying rigs with this Hook Link is pretty straight forward, using the Korund inner core and you can create a Multi-Rig, German Rig and even to good old “Ronnie” with ease, obviously, you cannot tie a Knotless Knot, (unless the hook has a massive eye..?!) and you must take care that you do not pull the ‘Inner’ through the weedy sleeve and to avoid this, I tend to leave the Hook Link on the Spool until the Hook end is tied and then cut to length and retrieve the inner to create the loop ready to attach to my main line etc. other than that, it is simple to work with and effective in use and does exactly as designed..!

Available on 10m Spools in either 25lb or 35lb Breaking Strain.





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**THE GOM
FROM LCA
TACKLE -
BY MARK
CARPER**



“Weird”... that was my first reaction when I saw this product advertised online about five years back...!!

A little Blue Block, which measures just 5cm x 2cm x 1cm, that professed to ‘sharpen’ your hook point without the need for a Vice, Files, Stones or even a Magnifying Glass and for under €10... not a chance... and that was how my thinking went until very recently....

At the latter end of January this year, I was fortunate to visit Carp Den Bosch, Europe’s biggest Carp Show and the new name and venue for Carp Zwolle over in the Netherlands.

Whilst there, I noticed that LCA Tackle had a stand and why wouldn’t they, they’re a Dutch company after all..! I knew the name rang a bell but it wasn’t until I saw the little blue block on a countertop I realised why, they were the company that introduced ‘The Gom’, this new simple Hook Sharpener... I couldn’t resist looking at this gadget if just to satisfy myself that it was, as suspected a complete gimmick and a waste of money, because how can something so simple replace £60 worth of sharpening kit....

..In all honesty, that was a little unfair I guess, as it was never intended to ‘replace’ that kit because if you know what you are doing with a file, you can ‘hone’ your hooks to be like a hypodermic needle, just check out what Lee from ‘Rig-It-Tackle’ does with their Hand Sharpened Hooks, but it was designed to take the stress and ‘faff’ out of sharpening hooks and taking them back to a respectable point or just boosting those straight from the



packet.

After a bit of practice though, I found that the difference it made, for example, to a Nash Tackle Pinpoint Claw size 6, straight from the packet was noticeable and the 'Back of the Nail' Sticky Test went up a notch and so did the puncture spots in my thumb..!!!

If the point was completely flattened or turned-over, then a file (or the bin) are the only options as The Gom will not really cope and you are more likely to damage the block than repair the hook, but for a quick 'buff-up' of the point before you cast into the abyss, it is perfect and does exactly what it was intended to do.

I cannot say at the minute how long The Gom will last or how many hooks you could realistically sharpen but so far, I have sharpened twenty-four Hooks and I only have nine holes in the Block.. I have basically used the holes made by a smaller hook, say a size 6 a couple of times and then when I have done a larger hook, such as a size 4, I have used the same holes again and so far so good as the block does seem to 'close-up'.

In Use

Using it could not be simpler. The block is 'not' a stone, so requires no wetting or oil etc. and it is in fact a unique construction made up of different 'Sand Crystals'.. which ones and how different I am not sure, but to me that's irrelevant anyway, what is relevant is "does it work..?" and the straight answer is "absolutely it does"....!!

By inserting the Hook Point into the block and then using a Left & Right 'turning motion', not an 'Up & Down' motion, the point gets a full 360°



'sharpen', with no flat spots. If you are using a Micro-Barbed Hook, you just go as deep as the start of the Barb and for 'Beaked Points' you place the hook in the block following the curve of the point and that's it, ten to fifteen seconds of back and forth and you are done and believe me, it improves the hook point of even the cheapest hooks. I tested The Gom on some Nash Tackle Pinpoint Hooks, which to be fair, are very good straight out of the packet and I tested it with some very, and I mean very cheap hooks I purchased directly from China and to my surprise, it made improvements to both, even the cheapest were more than acceptable and fishable...!!!

I had a few different makes of hooks kicking about and I have tried The Gom on size 2 to size 10 and it improved them all but without taking the point too far and making it too thin and flimsy....

One other 'trick' you can do with The Gom is to 'drag' the hook along the block length, like dragging it along a file but with the block being very fine, the amount of material removed from the hook is tiny but it does give a slightly better and sharper finish to the point

Conclusion

I will happily admit, my first thoughts on the product were way off the mark and although I was extremely sceptical about how well it could "Sharpen" a hook point, it has really impressed me.

As I said earlier, this gadget, albeit a very good and useful item, will probably not replace the true 'Hand-Sharpended' Hooks that are available from a few companies that specialise in Hand-Sharpending and will likely be dismissed by those same companies as "useless" and, excuse the pun "pointless" but for the majority that do not use Hand-Sharpended, it will certainly get them closer and will without doubt, improve your "Straight-Outta-Packet" hooks.

It will also prolong the life of your hooks too, meaning more casts per packet but even better, especially, if like me, you are a touch 'lazy'

when it comes to Hook Sharpening, it makes life so much simpler and I feel it will actively encourage me to ensure I give my hooks a quick 'Twist' both from new and once on an 'in use' rig and it will certainly give me that peace of mind that I am fishing with a sharp or at least sharper hook.

Over the years, I have been fortunate that my hooks and hook links have not had to be purchased or at least not at retail costs, so scrapping a rig has never been an issue but I will admit that I often binned it because it was too much hassle to get the sharpening kit out, especially in the early hours after resetting the rod, so The Gom is perfect for me.

On the **LCA Tackle** website, you will find a couple of instructional videos of how to get the best from The Gom <https://lcatackle.com/product/hakenslijper-the-gom/>

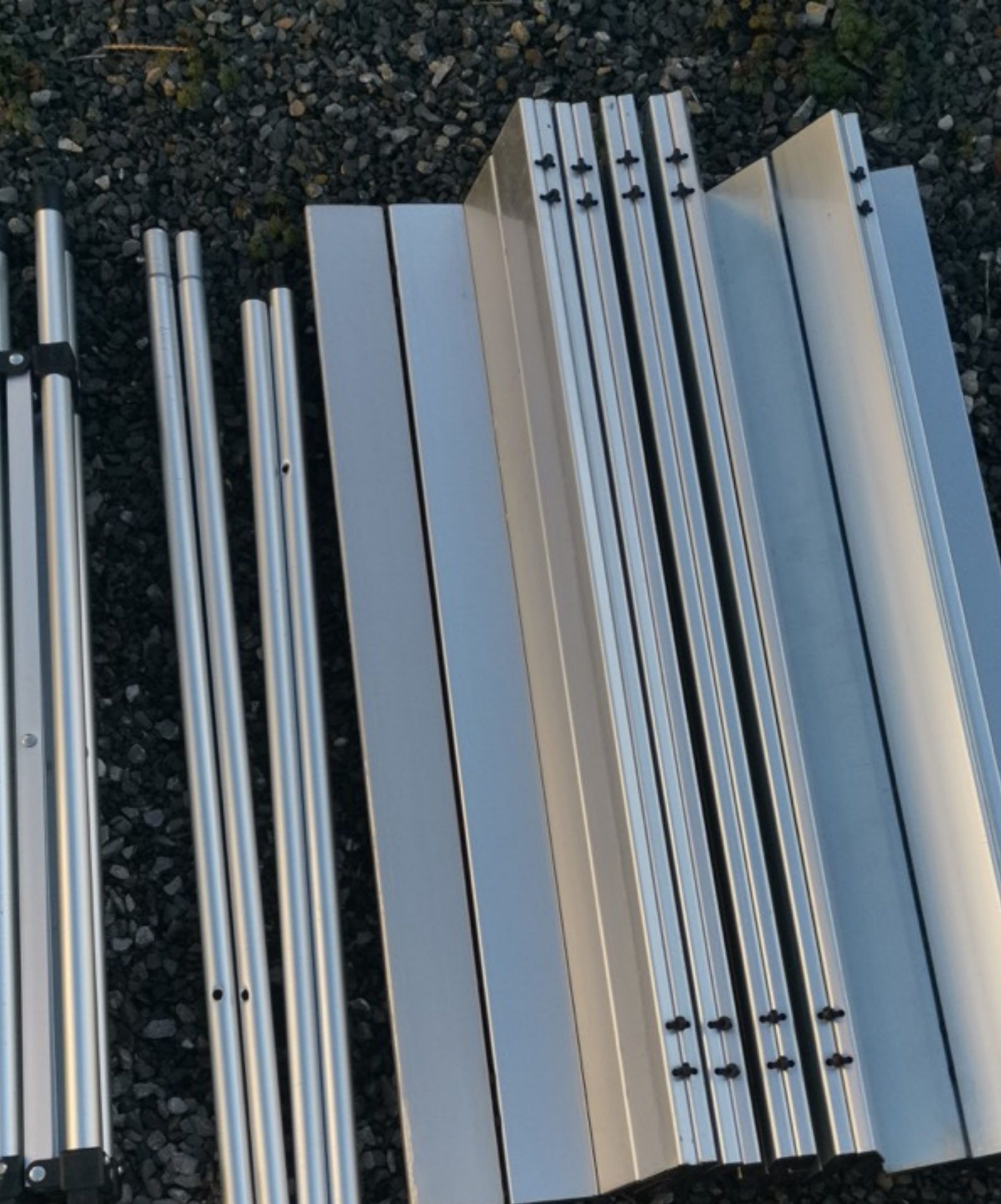
And if you head to **GCT Angling** you can purchase The Gom from the UK...

<https://gctangling.co.uk/product/the-gom/>

Garry at GCT can also answer any questions you might have as he is very familiar with the product and has stocked it for over five years....

You can message me via Instagram @mark_carper257 if you want to know more too....





**THE PERFECT COOKING TABLE
FOR FISHING
BY ANTHONY WOOD**

When you are on the bank fishing it can be really annoying rummaging through for your cooking stuff and cooking at ground level can be really hard on your back especially if you are an older angler.

The problem with a lot of tables is that they are big and bulky and even the folding tables take up a lot of space. I've tried a few take down tables in the past and they have been extremely flimsy and usually made out of a material that is totally useless for the purposes of a table.

You want a table that is going to support your bbq, plates, food, chopping board, etc and that is big enough to hold all of these comfortably but at the same time pack down as compact as possible. I was beginning to think that there wasn't a table out there that would do what I wanted without paying out hundreds of pounds.

I was scrolling through my Google search and I saw a table that looked like it was just what I had been looking for and even better it was from a company that I had used before and I knew their products were good quality and the service was also extremely good.

After a little reading I soon had one of the large size tables (L140cm x W70cm x H70cm) which only cost a very reasonable £54.99 at the time of purchase and I eagerly awaited it's arrival to see if it was as good as I expected it to be.



Reviews



When the table arrived I was pleasantly surprised at how compact it was in the very convenient carry bag that is supplied with it. Even nicer was the fact that everything wasn't squeezed into the carry bag so it was easy to unpack and repack.

Building the table was very easy and it was nice to see that the frame was nice and sturdy with reinforced hinges and the aluminium panel table top is waterproof so there is no need to worry if you want to leave the table set up overnight while your fishing and it rains, just give it a wipe off in the morning.

So how much can the table hold in weight? It holds the equivalent of 30 x 1kg bags of granulated sugar (that's the standard size one) which is a really decent amount.

I am extremely pleased with this table, it is nice and sturdy, holds a decent amount and fits several of my different bbq's on it so I have a choice which to use.

You can find this table at <https://www.andescamping.co.uk/98345-andes-folding-aluminium-picnic-table-140-x-70-x-70cm.html> and you can also follow Andes Camping on their social media channels www.facebook.com/AndesProducts and www.instagram.com/andescampingofficial



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**A CLOSER LOOK AT ZIG RIGS
BY ANTHONY WOOD**

As the weather starts to turn and spring and summer approaches the carp will start to move into the upper layers of the water and this is where zig fishing comes into its own. A lot of fisheries ban surface fishing because of the danger it poses to the bird life that call the lakes their home.

Zig fishing however, allows you to keep the bait in the upper layers of the lake without actually being on the surface. So what exactly is zig fishing?

There are two types of zig fishing, the first type is a fixed the first is the fixed length zig which is basically a fixed hair rig with a floating bait, this is good for if you know the depth of the water you are fishing but can be very difficult to cast if you are fishing a 20ft hair rig.

The second method and the one I much prefer is the adjustable zig rig. This rig is made using a weight (whether you use a lead weight or a more eco friendly weight is down to you) on the mainline, then a rubber bead, an inline float, another rubber bead and then finally a 2ft fluorocarbon hair rig (I like to use the Rigged & Ready fluorocarbon) with a good quality swivel at one end and a zig foam and holder at the other end with a good hook.

To use the adjustable zig rig cast it out to your desired area, tighten everything up and then slowly let line out a foot at a time until you see the zig appear on the surface. So if you have let out 8ft of line after tightening up then you are fishing in 10ft of water (remember you made a 2ft zig hair if you followed my diagram).



Now that the zig rig is on the surface you can gently wind line back in so that the line is either just under the surface so it avoids the birds or you can wind down to a specific depth if you know how much line you reel winds in each turn.

There are lots of zig kits out there but my favourite is from a company called Bank Tackle (<https://www.banktackle.co.uk/zig-box-set-3800-p.asp>). You get everything you need to make the end piece of the zig rig in this kit and you even get three types of hooks so you can choose either chod, curve shank or wide gape hooks and you can choose micro barbed or barbless when you are placing your order.

There are also the components to make either a zig foam set up using the included zig aligner and zig foam or you can use the zig dumbbells, bait screws and hook stops. They even include a card of bait stops if you want to make up your own hair rig with a floating bait of your choice.

It is also very good value at only £19.99 with enough terminal tackle to make up 30 zig rigs and have some spares left over. It all comes packaged separately so that the pieces don't spill if your delivery driver isn't exactly gentle with your package but you also get a rather cool tackle bit box to put it all in when you unpack it.

A lot of people are unsure of the zig rig but if used on the adjustable set up like my diagram this really is a brilliant addition to your armoury when fishing for carp in the warmer (and occasionally in the colder months if you see them swimming around near the surface) weather when they naturally migrate to the surface. Don't be afraid to give it a try especially with this superb kit from Bank Tackle.

Good luck and I really hope you do give it a try, if you catch yourself a nice fish on this, why not send it in to the magazine you may even get in the Catch Report section!!

D T Baits Product Launch Crustazia



by Dan Winfield

It's safe to say that DT baits has a history and heritage having been producing quality bait since 1988.

While other companies have been and gone DT has remained an industry stalwart.

It's gone through a number of guises over the years with ownership changing hands. It's currently owned by Fenton Trewick. A down to earth, humble, friendly, carp fishing enthusiast who has a little known and seldom spoken about history within the carp angling world which has set him up perfectly to sit at the helm of DT. There has been one constant throughout Neil Messenger is still lovingly rolling our bait and has been for 30 years.

It's been some ten years now since DT released a new bait range, that being the Supa fruit. With such a fine collection of very successful baits it would have been easy to sit back and make do with what we have. Ever the innovator Fenton wasn't willing to do that. Ten years is a long time and although he has made some smaller innovative product releases he had in mind a far more ambitious plan.

It had been said for some time that the one thing missing from DT's unique range was an out and out smelly type bait. This didn't fall on deaf ears and in fact Fenton himself had felt the same but like anything the timing had to be right. So when that time came, the first step was to liaise with our European consultant and dear friend Peder Lichtenberg who had voiced his own feelings on this sometime back, reminiscing about past ventures into a solely ocean based bait that never came to fruition. The two of them bounced ideas of each other until they came up with an agreed direction to take the project.

To create something new Fenton had to visit the past in the form of 20 year old recipes. One in particular was rolled and used way back by a

select few to devastating effect but for one reason or another it never went into full production before being shelved and almost forgotten about. Until two years ago when it was revisited and this was the inspiration for what followed. After a discussion with Peder it was agreed that the new bait range should be based around crustation meal and milk proteins. The next stage was looking into the availability of the key ingredients for the crustacean meal. Hours and even days were spent researching and contacting suppliers. DT's foundations are built on the exceptional quality of the ingredients we source and this was to be no exception. It was a painstakingly long and laborious process speaking to suppliers from around the world, obtaining samples until we were completely satisfied that the bait components met DT's steadfast quality standards.

With the key components sourced it was time to work out the correct levels and combine the crustacean meal with high quality milk proteins before starting to roll test batches. This came with its own set of problems. Good quality fish meals are usually very high in protein and





nutrients but because there isn't any fishmeal in this bait it meant using high levels of crustacean meal which arguably has a stronger nutrient profile however the large percentage of crustacean meal effected the buoyancy of the rolled baits. It left them light and prone to floating. After 56 different test roll attempts

the correct consistency and levels were eventually found aided by the addition of a liberal helping of GLM, kelp and spirulina which as we know are all proven and very powerful carp bait additives . After hours of research, sourcing ingredients and quality assurance testing we ended up with a very special and unique basemix and one unlike anything else in the range.

That wasn't the end of the research faze, far from it! It was time to develop a flavour profile as unique as the newly formulated basemix. DT have a select and trusted number of flavour houses from across the world. Fenton consulted a number of flavourists over a considerable period of time. He felt that due to the calibre of the ingredients used in the basemix it wasn't necessary to massively overpower the subtle natural aroma but rather the flavour profile should compliment it. After sniffing his way through an endless supply of samples and having not been sold on anything he'd been sent he opted to create his own flavour blend utilising two shellfish palatants which





complimented the scent of the basemix perfectly. Months of hard work, dedication and resilience resulted the creation of our most idiosyncratic bait in the range, with an insanely high nutritional value and a flavour profile that guarantees continual results. This ambitious and hard fought project was now at its most telling stage and I don't think

anyone involved was expecting what came next.

The exciting field testing stage was now upon us. DT have a small number of team members and consultants compared to most companies out there. We feel a smaller closer knit team is important for a number of reasons but in this instance, it helped us to get a true reading on how the new bait performed, not to mention that all important feedback. Its safe to say we hit the ground running as the catch reports came thick and fast.

You've only got to look back over our social media to see how successful and instantly impactful the "test bait" was. It didn't stop there either! We watched numbers of our team have the best seasons of their lives. Rick Golder banked seven 40+ fish along with countless along with



countless 30+ fish. Jay White absolutely emptied Furzbray lake in Devon whilst on a lake exclusive. The truth be told we've only just finished drip feeding his captures from that trip onto our social media, that's how ridiculous his results were. Then there's Alan Clarke who seemed to land a new PB with



every trip out. Maybe the most telling of all was what Peder managed to do in Europe. Whether it was an exclusive commercial venue or a wild sprawling abyss he had some amazing results, fitting as he played an integral part in formulating the Bait we now know to be Crustazia.

That bring us up to date and I'm please to say that by the time you read this the Crustazia range will be available to order from our website www.dtbaits.co.uk. We will also be attending all of the UK's biggest carp fishing shows such as The Northern Carp show and The Big One Farnborough.



So make sure to come and say hello and see what all the hype is about.

Dan Winfield

DT baits.



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Castaway PVA

Deception Angling

Dean Brandreath



Dean Brandreth from The Monument with his dad Karl.

I did a six day session on Monument 2, with low expectations, but after catching 19 carp between us it was a real red letter day well session, I ended up catching a fish of a life time at 37lb 4oz, a massive PB for me.

Caught on maggots on red foam with little and often approach with spodding maggots.

What a week we had.

Talking Carp: Congratulations on the personal best Dean.

Karl Brandreath



Karl Brandreath on Monument 2.

After a week on monument with my son, we managed to catch 19 carp between us. With this 36lb mirror my biggest carp of the session.

I had 6 x 30lb's and 9 x 20's plus 1 high double, all caught using Rig-It Tackle end gear, R3 size 4 hooks hand sharpened.

The bait was maggots on red foam on a d-rig, spodding maggots little and often.

Talking Carp: That's one hell of a week for you both Karl, well done.



Andrew Mears managed this 30lbs 13oz common along with a stunning 30lbs mirror recently from his Norfolk syndicate. Both couldn't resist the awesome Cold Water Green Beast.

Youth team member Bobbie Pettet was back in action recently. The senior team clubbed together over Xmas to get him a tackle bundle and other bits. Bobbie christened them in style with the help of his trusted Cold Water Green Beast.





Team member Sam Beswick managed a lovely 28lbs linear from a recent trip. “Mr Consistent” was back out braving the elements and it only took one fish to show at 120 yards to tempt him to cast a single white N-blend wafter into the zone, the rest is history!

Steve “Fisky” Fisk can’t go wrong at the moment! Since moving over to DT he’s been on a fine run of form. This was the latest victim from his Norfolk syndicate caught on Cold Water Green Beast.



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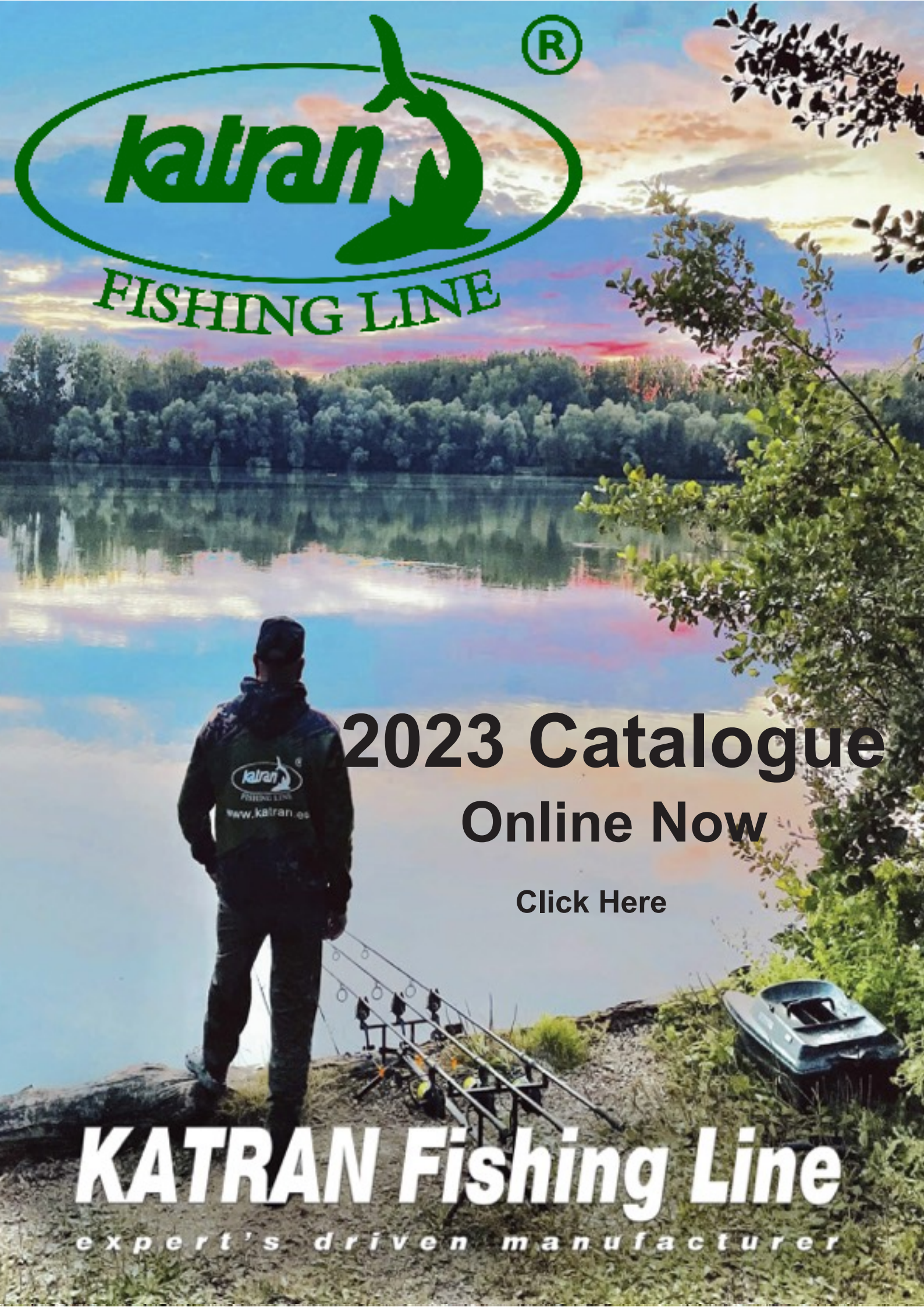
Angling

Matt Bush



Matt Eade



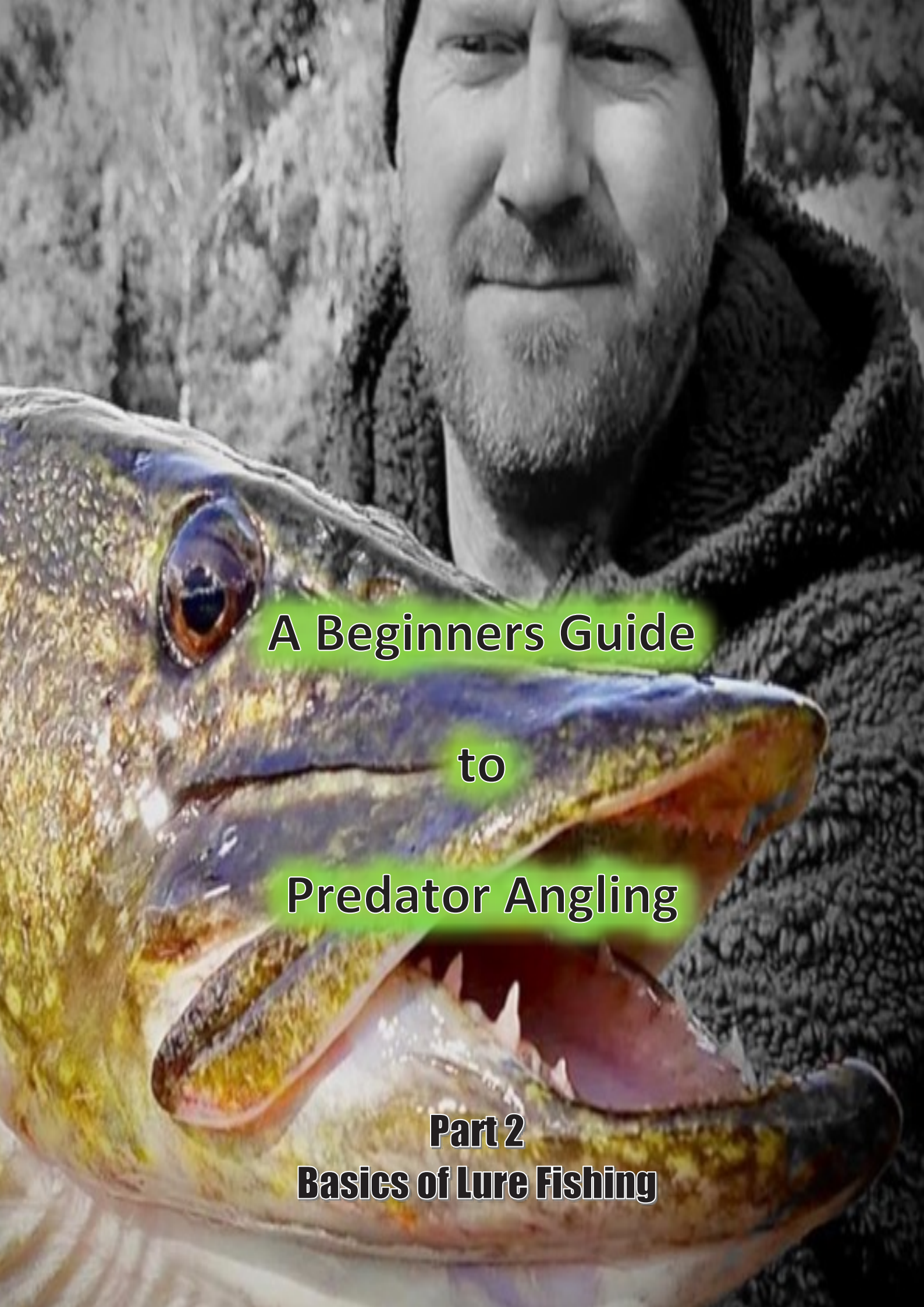


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A Beginners Guide

to

Predator Angling

Part 2

Basics of Lure Fishing

Following on from last months 'Beginners Guide to Predator Angling' supplement, this month I got to grips with "Lure" Fishing, from the gear I needed to how to go about catching. Now, I know the Pike seem to be the chosen quarry of many a Carp Angler but I felt I wasn't ready for that just yet and besides, I've spent enough time sat behind motionless rods so I thought I'd do something a bit different.

My main aim was to land my first ever 'Lure' caught Perch, but first I needed to make sure my tackle was up to the job...(that pun was intended..!!)

Fortunately for me, I knew just the man that could cast an expert eye over my tackle 'gear' (I know..!) and that man was once again, Mr. Lee Brooks, aka 'Obsession With Angling'...!

At this point, I think I need to add that it was my full intention to go out on the banks of a local Canal and fish with the gear in an attempt

to catch 'something', 'anything' on one of the Lures I currently have... however, after attending the incredible 'Carp Den Bosch' over in the Netherlands, Europe's biggest Carp Show, I returned unwell and tested positive for Covid... yep, serves me right I guess, but that scuppered any hopes I had of hitting the bank and fishing as I was pretty unwell for a few weeks and then ran out of time ahead of this being published.... anyway....



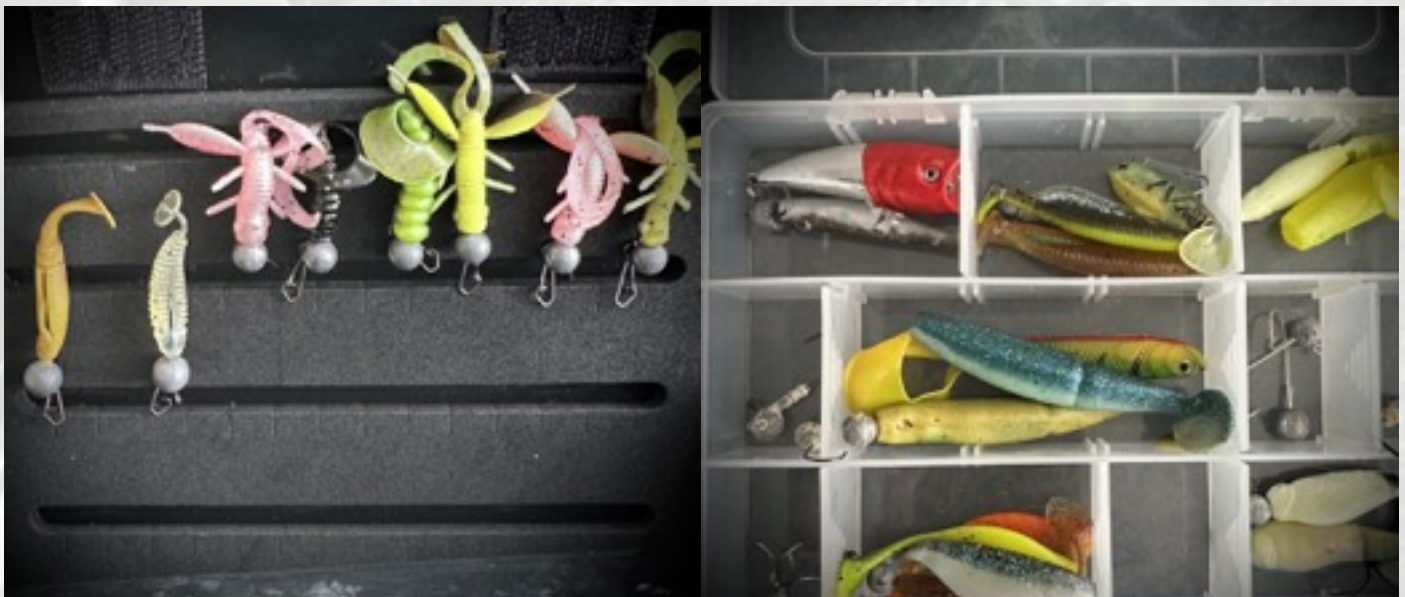
TC: Lee, welcome back to Talking Carp or should I say the “Talking Carp Predator Angling Supplement, Part Two” and thanks for taking the time out again to answer my very poor but equally as important questions, all of which you have probably answered a million times before...!

LB: Thanks Mark, great to see you again and thanks for having me back!

TC: I am surprised to see just how much gear there is available for Lure Fishing and in terms of manufacturers and choice, it's looks more confusing than carp gear, especially the choice of Lure, it's crazy with every size, shape and colour, including ones

that look like, Fish, Frogs and even Rats and then there are the ones that feel like ‘jelly’ and look like nothing you've ever seen before, then Hard Baits, Spinners, Spoons, Jigs, Skirted, Chatter and that's before we consider Terminal Tackle with Traces, Loaded Hook Heads, Trebles, the list just keeps going..... But let's start with the essentials shall we, the Rod and Reel and take it from there... What type of Rod and Reel would best suit my pursuit of a Lure caught Perch and is what I currently own sufficient for the job...?

LB: I use the Korum Snapper ‘So Solid’ Lure Fishing Rod





- <https://www.predatortackle.co.uk/Rods/Korum-Snapper-Rods/Korum-Snapper-So-Solid-Spinning-Rods/>

and Korum Snapper Infernos Reel -

<https://www.predatortackle.co.uk/Reels/Spinning/Korum-Snapper-Infernos-SL-Red-Spinning-Reels/>

This is a nice light set up for Lure Fishing and the setup you have from Spro is absolutely fine.

You can get good advice from most Tackle Shops and they usually do a good Light Rod and Reel.

TC: So now that's me sorted with a Rod and Reel, a Net, Mat and the proper ancillary items, including a First Aid Kit, in my nice new bag, what do I need to entice that monster Perch...? Although to be fair, any size will do for starters...! What 'Lure' do I choose and are there specific Lures for specific fish and time of year, waters etc...?

LB: As you have already said, there are so many to choose from and the Lures can vary quite a bit too but a good starting point would be "Squirmz", again from Korum.



<https://www.predatortackle.co.uk/Soft-Lure-Baits/Korum->

[Snapper-Floatex-Squirmz-75cm-Ready-Rigged/](#)

These are brilliant 'all-round' Lures to use any time of the year and they come in a variety of colours and sizes, which is useful as it is trial and error with Lures... there is no right or wrong colour...!

For me though if the water is nice and clear I would go for your bright Lure colours and if the water is murky I favour the darker coloured Lures as these tend to give a good silhouette.

TC: As with all types of fishing, I guess 'Location' and 'Finding Fish' is a good start, but what do I look for in terms of location and 'signs' of predator fish and do perch show themselves as Car do...?

LB: If you are Predator Fishing for smaller Perch, I find they tend to be found in the margins and close in.

If you want to target bigger Perch I would look to find the deeper

water and you also want to look out for features such as snags, reed lines, overhanging trees etc. and another good spot you could target is under bridges.

A good sign to look out for when Fishing for Perch is if there are small fry knocking about and you want to aim there. It is also worth keeping in mind that Perch tend to be most active first thing in the morning and last thing in the evening as this is when they are on the hunt for their Prey...!!

TC: I know that your favoured quarry, in terms of Predators is Pike and I guess whilst fishing for perch, a Pike could likely take the bait, but are there any tricks you can do to try and avoid this...?

LB: The short Answer is, No.....!!!

If a Pike is in the area the chances are it will go for your Lure. Its unavoidable. And if you are Fishing

'Light Tackle' it could bite your line and snap you off.... So if you think this might happen use a very fine wire trace of around 10lb. <https://www.predatortackle.co.uk/Terminal-Tackle/Trace/Spro-Freestyle-Titan-Traces-7x/>

TC: So now I am armed with the correct gear, my Lure is setup correctly and I have found my spot(s), can I fish for the Perch all year round, the same as we do for Carp providing, if I abide by the rules of the River closed season...?

LB: Yes, Perch Fishing is a very



SNAPPER

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popular sport all year round..!!

TC: ...and what about Pike, can I target them in Lakes and Canals etc. during the River Closed Season and throughout the Summer...?

LB: The Pike Fishing season runs 1st October and until the close of the River Season on or around the 14th of March and it is frowned upon to target them outside of these times, especially in the warmer weather when Oxygen levels are lower as the Pike can become distressed very quickly and sometimes they may not recover.

TC: So, what are the best times to Predator Fish and what conditions work best and should I only really get the Predator Gear out during Autumn and Winter and stick to the Carp the rest of the time...?

LB: As I have mentioned, I find the best times to target Perch is early Morning and Dusk and

that is all year round but in general terms and as most Carp Anglers do, Predator Fishing is a Autumn / Winter sport.

...So that's me armed with the correct gear and a selection of Lures and I know where to look to locate those Perch I am after, so now I just need to get out on the bank before the 15th March (that's when the next issue is due out) in an attempt to catch myself my very first 'Lure' Perch... However, I very much doubt I will be alone in my quest as I think I will need all the help I can get..... But I know just the people and lucky for me, they are both part



of the 'Gunki UK' Team.. How's that for a bit of luck...?!!!

Next month, in Part Three of our Predator Angling Supplement, I will look in more detail at the gear available for Lure Fishing and get the expert opinion of Mr. Dave Greenland, the owner of 'Predator Tackle' (<https://www.predatortackle.co.uk/>) based in Langrick, Lincolnshire on set-ups for various species and Lee will be back with us to explain the art of "Dead Baiting" and

how he pursues those deadly looking Pike...

You can see Lee in action on his YouTube Channel - <https://www.youtube.com/@obsessionwithangling>

Nick Redding sent me in a couple of pictures of his Lad Henry, proudly showing off his first Pike...! Caught using 'Dead Baits' of Roach and Sardines... Well done, Henry..!!!!





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Thankyou Matt and Tracie



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**Send your articles and catch reports by the
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**THE CARP MAGAZINE
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'The Talking Carp Team'

Brian Dixon
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