



Talking

Issue 64
June 2021



Inside -

NEW!!! Talking Point with Julian Cundiff,
Oli Davies, Dave Locke, Scott Grant, Plus more !!!

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Hello... and welcome.....

to issue 64 for your reading pleasure.

And just like that... we are well into summer. Suddenly everything seemed to change overnight, the mini heatwave came, carp woke up and got their sexy on, and the catch reports started rolling in faster than we can open our emails... but KEEP THEM COMING!!

It's a great time of year to be an angler. Nature is back to its glorious best, and in full bloom. The weather is usually quite good, and as anglers we are treated to all the things people don't see sat at home.

Its also a great time to give your other skills a polish... as the old "bait and wait" approach can now be used overnight as you sleep in your bivvy... but once that sun starts to break in the morning make sure you are awake, coffee or tea in hand, and watching the water. You will see the carp moving to their favourite sunny spots, or they may be leaping out of the water as they feed on fry and insects, or mopping up yesterdays free offerings in the margins... whatever they are doing... get wound in, go grab a stalking rod, some bread and corn, a net, mat and carp care and that's your lot... and go find those carp in the shallows and start freelining!! AND HOLD ON!!

Believe us... it's a great way to fish.

As always we can be contacted at the usual email addresses so keep those articles, reports catches coming in.

Email us at the usual address :-

brian.dixon@talkingcarp.co.uk

mark@talkingcarp.co.uk

Team Talking Carp

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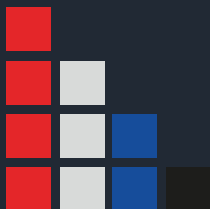
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with all of
your catches
!!!!!!!**

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Talking Point...

with Julian Cundiff

Talking Point... with Julian Cundiff

If there is one single item that can cause a split like no other in our angling community, it is this one. The hook!!

So, this month, Mr Consistent, Jules joins us on our Talking Point (see what we did there) to give his views, dispel some myths, and hopefully guide you on your choice of hook pattern for different angling situations.

T.C Welcome to the June issue Jules, this month we would like to talk about hooks, hook patterns for different situations, barbed v barbless and of course “straight from the packet vs hand sharpened”.

So let us start at the beginning, as we do see this topic popping up a lot across social media. Hook patterns. Although most patterns can be used for various rigs, such as bottom baits, pop ups and wafers, would you say that sometimes tweaking a rig with a different hook pattern could make all the difference between a nailed fish and an aborted take?

J.C. Hi mate nice to be back and not talking about matters related to lockdown although I fear we probably will be later in '21. I guess all things being equal a change of hook pattern can make all the difference but that's only when you've got everything else spot on. To be honest hook pattern choice is **WAY** down the list of things that make a difference as lack of action is probably more down to not being on the fish, not being there at the right time, scaring them, baiting levels wrong, poor rig choice, poor hook sharpness and so on.

So, way down the list... The last time success was hook pattern choice for me was the late eighties and the bent hook. Those big old Drennan Lure hooks we bent caught me a lot of carp on a lot of waters and were the edge. However, they did tend to 'wind in' and cause damage especially on smaller carp so they were banned (quite rightly) and we started to use biro tube and shrink tube to create the same effect. In 2021 you are best concentrating on making sure the hook is pin sharp whatever pattern you use rather than flip flopping patterns and brands **TBH**



the bad old bent hook days



The bent hook was a massive advantage back in the day - a young me agrees.

T.C. *Does size really matter? We ask this as we have seen some rigs with 10mm pop ups on the back of a size 4 and at the opposite end of that scale, 22 mm boilies coming off a size 6, yet the owners of the rigs swear they work for them. We always believed that certain size hooks work better matched to specific size hooks, so what's your thoughts?*

J.C I guess when it comes to bait size to hook size, I'd quote that saying I always do ' if it's working for you and you are not being out fished by others doing similar time don't f***n change a winning combination '.... That said my general rule of thumb is to use the largest hook and smallest bait I can get away with. The larger the hook the more likely it is to find hold (go look at your average doubles mouth and a 4 is nothing). If you think carp can see big hooks on the bottom and spook, then you are crazy! Lakebeds are nothing like the top of tackle boxes, fish tanks or drawings in print. They are full of all sorts of garbage like weed stems, twigs, silt, suspended algae etc....Drop a hook on the bottom, turn away then look back.... you ain't finding that hook. Maybe mid water or on the surface but on the deck forget it. Leads, shrink tube, leaders, lead clips are a lot bigger and stand out a lot more...Bigger baits IF ejected by the carp are more likely to bounce or drag the hook out



my preferred ratio. Size 4 and an 11mm pop up

unless you are using long hairs. With a large Nashbait Cultured Hookbait the hair from the hook to bait is always at LEAST as long as the diameter of the hookbait. Yes, I know people feel they get more bites on smaller hooks, but I'm convinced that's probably because smaller hooks are sharper so it's the sharpness does not hook size that is doing it. Smaller hook, finer point and all that it entails.



with a larger bait I use a longer hair

T.C With access to social media, YouTube channels and suchlike, it has become the norm for anglers to copy the rigs they see out there without any actual thought on how they work, or why they perhaps won't work. Do you think a little bit of time spent on researching this subject on YouTube and suchlike could definitely help the average angler better understand the mechanics of the rigs they want to make, or give them a better insight into what may work to their advantage?

J.C The only issue with SO MUCH information being freely available is that unless you are a focused and experienced angler it can drive you barmy. My advice is to pick a pop up rig and a bottom bait rig YOU like and go somewhere you can expect lots of action. Then and only then can you figure out what does and does not work. Why lengthening a hooklength, upping your hook size, lengthening the hair works.... or does not. The way to get better at carp fishing is to catch lots, have a few starting points and then fine tune them. The only advice that's really pertinent to YOU is if it's been given from someone fishing your water. Yes you may well look up to Terry, Darryl, Laney and maybe even me but look at the style of fishing we do, the waters we fish in comparison to YOU. Are they similar or not? Being inspired is one thing but duplicating the right stuff is totally different.....



Get out there and catch carp so YOU know what is working

T.C Barbed vs Barbless! Obviously if the lake rules specify what you can/cannot use then you have to abide by those rules.... But. if you have an option, what packet are you getting your hooks from, and why?

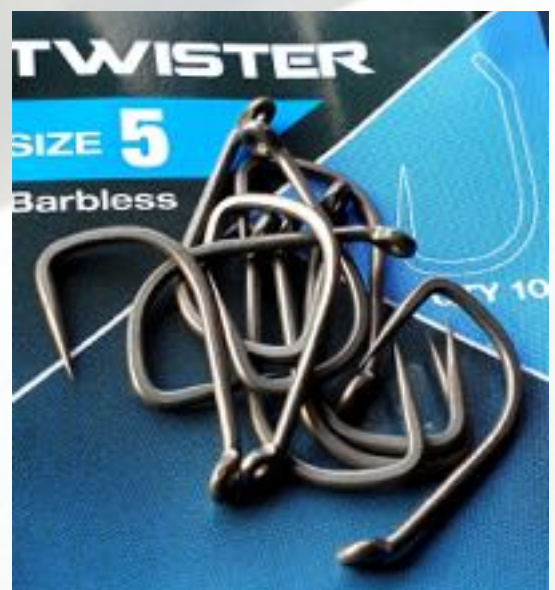
J.C. Barbed or barbless is pretty easy for me Brian.... and always has been. The barbed hooks of today are microbarbed and bear no real resemblance to the horrors of the seventies and eighties. My microbarbed Nash Fang Twisters and Fang X have tiny barbs even on the 4's and 5's so they are my choice.

That said I sit on my rods, use a heavy mainline, safe rigs, drop my leads and only cast where I know I can land them. Barbless hooks do fall out easier, a lot easier so they are ideal for day tickets where you get anglers who are less experienced and some who are just w*****s.

In that case you need to protect the carp from that lot so barbless is sensible. My order of choice is micro barbed, crush the barb leaving a little bump and then barbless.



Nash Fang Twister size 4 sharpened by Rig It Tackle



My choice for barbless

T.C And finally, here's the big topic right now! Out Of The Packet vs Hand Sharpened!

We know our thoughts on this subject, and it goes back to what we said before regarding different hooks for different situations, but I know our readers would love to know your train of thought on this.

So, where? When? And how? Would you use hooks from the packet and hand sharpened specials?

J.C. Again simple for me because of the way I fish. 95% of my rigs are pop up rigs with the hook point off the bottom but usually as low slung as possible. Always hand sharpened as it's **UNARGUABLE** that the finer the point the easier it penetrates the skin for the same amount of pressure and hooks more fish. By sharpening a hook, you are fining it / thinning it down to aid penetration. So, my Nash Fang Twister 4's are as thin on the point as most people's packet 8's. Go back to what I said earlier; that big old hook grabs hold better and once sunk in there is no loss of strength as it's only the point that is thinned down not the gape, shank or eye.



One hook sorted by Rig-It Tackle.... one not. You decide



I don't use sharpened hooks on the deck as the point can sometimes ping over

However, if the hook is on the deck when I am fishing a bottom bait I use out the packet as I don't want to ping the fine point over on the bottom. I usually drop a hook size as it will be finer but never sharpened on the deck.

Do I sharpen them? Never.... well with a slight caveat. For the last six years Lee and the lovely Lisa at Rig It Tackle have sharpened all my hooks and will continue to do so. This is not a paid thing but my choice as I simply can't do them as good. Do yourself a favour and get a packet of your favourite

hooks sharpened by them and use that as your template. If you can do them that good crack on.... if not, and you use pop up rigs you are crazy not to use the service they provide. Even though they do my hooks I always give them a gentle polish with a Nash Finishing File once I've taken the point protector off and always inspect them with an eye glass before ANY cast.... that is called OCD, but it is so important... You can find Rig It Tackle at www.rigittackle.com and my Nash hooks, Finishing File and Eye Glass at any good Nash stockist.

Hope that helps Brian and if you add yourself to my **FREE Julian Cundiff Angling** page on Facebook I've covered hook sizes, sharpening etc in infinite details on it. Just find it, add yourself and there are over 120 topics covered.



Find this page on Facebook... it is **FREE**

T.C. As always it has been a pleasure, and hopefully a learning curve for some too.

As always you can keep up with Julian across his social media platforms at: -

Facebook Julian Cundiff Angling (purely instructional)

Facebook Julian P Cundiff

Twitter @juliancundiff

Instagram julescundiff1

Thanks as always, and we look forward to our next "Talking Point" with you.

*All the best
Brian*





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*Memories of an average Carper
Part 3....*



By Dave Locke

If you read my last effort you will know that I was rushed into hospital with severe stomach problems.

I spent a month in hospital and then 6 months stuck at home recovering, all I could think about was fishing. So after sorting a few things out and officially shutting my business down the next thing to do was find a good place to go fish.

With my son acting as unpaid chauffeur we went around a lot of tackle shops asking about any club waters or syndicates that were available. Eventually we was told about a club that had a fair few waters and I could join at anytime, it was only 45minutes from home and so was a no brainer really.

We had a drive to look at a couple of the lakes on offer and after asking a few members and talking to the bailiff there was one lake in particular that was of interest to me. There were at least two thirty's and a good head of twenty's with a good stock of back

up doubles.

For the first few times I wasn't allowed out by myself and not a chance in hell of doing a night, I had to be accompanied by either my wife or son as I still had 27 staples holding my stomach together.

It was Autumn time and on those day trips I only managed a couple of low doubles and to be fair I wasn't really enjoying my fishing, the lake was far to busy for me and because I couldn't walk that far carrying my gear my choice of swims was very limited.

I mentioned to the bailiff about the lack of swim choice and how busy the lake gets and he told me about another lake on the club ticket that had a disabled swim you could park behind that rarely gets fished because there was only three twenty's in there and the lake record was just 22lb, I went to have a look around and for some reason I had a real good feel for the place.

I was still not allowed out by she who must be obeyed unless I had a tag along carer with me.

I didn't catch a thing from this

new water but it gave me a good chance to have a cast about with the marker rod and get to know the water.

After the new year I was finally allowed to go by myself and even do the odd night. The first day that I was by myself I caught a twenty which only goes to prove my wife's a jinx.

At the end of January I did a couple of nights and had a 16lber. The disabled swim was nice and comfy and I didn't even need to set my bivvy up, I just slept in my van. On the last day I packed up

just before dark and then heard on the radio that there was a bit of a traffic hold up on the way home, so I decided to have a walk around the lake, something that I hadn't done yet. The far side is very heavily wooded with overgrown bushes hanging over the lake and only 3 swims along the whole length of the lake.

As I was creeping along I noticed a disturbance in the water ten foot in front of me right under a lot of overhanging brambles. I crept up as quietly as I could expecting to see a pike laying under the cover but what I saw was a very

big carp that was obviously well over the known lake record of 22lb, I thought the carp looked a good thirty. I watched this carp for a good five minutes until it slowly sank below the surface. There was no way I could cast to this spot from the opposite bank, the brambles



The first 20 from the disabled swim

and bushes overhung the water by about five foot and there was no way I could safely fish for the carp from the wooded bank.

At home all I could think about was how to get a bait to where I saw this carp. Eventually I came up with a plan. The next trip was for 3 days and nights, I had everything all ready in my mind how to get a bait to this carp. There was a small gap about 2 foot wide in the Brambles a couple of feet from the area I saw the carp so from the disabled swim I tied a 3 foot length of 6lb line to my mainline and just a lead on the end, the reason for the lower breaking strain line at the end was, if I miss cast and ended up in the Brambles I didn't want a load of line going across the lake if I had to pull for a break. By sheer fluke my first cast went straight into the gap and landed with a thud on the bank. I then walked around the far side dug my lead out of the bank and tied a baited rig on the end, Then I tied the hook onto the eye of a old float rod with PVA string

and lowered my rig into position under the Brambles I left it there for 5 minutes to make sure the PVA had dissolved and pulled the float rod out. Back round to my swim I very carefully wound up the slack line. Daft thing is I was dreading getting a take on one of my other rods incase it took out my carefully placed rig. I need not have worried because I never had a thing.

It was my last day for that session and it was very cold so I wasn't surprised that I was looking at a blank. Then at 3.45 pm my carefully place rod absolutely ripped off. After a really hard fight I netted the biggest carp I had caught up till then. I was sure it would make thirty but it went bang on 28lb looking at it's mouth it had never been caught before and was in immaculate condition.

Even though I have now caught many carp much bigger than this one it is still one of my favorite catches, At the time a new lake record and a new PB for me.

The 28lb new PB, I still think it looks like it should be a thirty



Through that spring I only had one blank session and the info that I got from the bailiff telling me there's only three twenties in the lake proved to be totally wrong, in fact by the end of July I had caught ten different twenty's, one of them I called teardrop I caught 4 times in as many months. The trouble I was having now was the bailiff had told other members about my catches and the lake was getting to be very busy. So whenever I turned up and found the lake busy I would

swap my attention to the other lake as there was a lot more swims to chose from on there. I did well on the bigger lake with a few more twenty's but alas none of the thirty's.

One session springs to mind when I turned up only to find a vast area of the lake frozen over, but with the weather forecast telling me it was going to be warmer the next day I decided to stay and give it a go anyway. First cast I had a 16lber and then just before dark I

had a 24lb common. The forecast was correct and by the next morning the lake had completely thawed out, strangely I never had anything else .

Winter was a bit of an eye opener the bigger lake turned out to fish much better than the small lake which I thought unusual as the small lake was quite a bit deeper. Just goes to show we will never know everything there is to know about our passion. The following spring both lakes were getting very busy, I'm a sociable

sort of chap but when you get people keep casting over you and tramping about the banks when you're margin fishing, my patience gets to it's limit very quickly. So I started to look around for another fishery and by a very jammy bit of luck I was given the phone number to a syndicate not far from where I was already fishing. I was quite amazed to be told there was a space available for me if I could meet the owner at the lake and he liked me. How could he possibly not like me I'm adorable, hehehe.



Tear Drop, caught four times

We met at a farm gate and the chap unlocked the gate and beckoned me in then locked the gate again, it was a very long drive across a track through some fields before we got to the lake. The owner and I had a chat and seemed to get on well then he told

me to have a walk around and would I make sure the gate was locked when I left. Now I don't know if many carpers get this feeling but within a short while I just knew this lake was for me. At 16 acres and spotlessly clean out in the middle of farm land yeah that, I do for me.

A couple of days later I got the phone call I was waiting for saying I could join the syndicate at the beginning of May. I have never hated March and April so much. May seemed to take ages to arrive so at 4:30 am on the first of May I was at the syndicate getting set up. I hadn't been to the old club lakes much because of the crowds, so I had only done a few days on my local club runs water, which had nothing in it bigger than 15lb. The info that I had on the syndicate lake was a good head of low twenty's a few high twenty's and one thirty that goes 36lb. Apparently it was quite a difficult water and if you got one carp a day you were doing well.

It was a deep lake 15 to 16 feet

most of the time with a featureless and weedfree bottom. Most of the carp were caught from the bottom of the slope that runs all around the lake from the edge to around 20 to 30 foot out .

The only downside with this lake was at the top car park end there was a huge diesel water pump about the size of a ford fiesta and it was a noisy bugger. The good thing was you couldn't hear it much from the far end. Talking to the only other person there I was told the lake depths can vary from ten foot at the end of summer to 20 foot in winter because the lake was used for irrigation. That first two day session I had one common at 19lb but the other chap had a 21lber, more importantly I had fell in love with the place and couldn't wait to get back.

The next session was for 4 days and nights. After the first 24 hours I hadn't had or seen a thing, surprisingly there was no one else on the lake. I couldn't get the fact that I'd been told the whole

bottom of the lake was totally featureless.

As the title of my pieces say I've only ever considered myself to be an average angler, but there's one thing I seem to be very good at and that is feature finding. So whilst the lake was empty I spent almost the entire day walking around it with a couple of marker rods. The bottom was mainly covered with a thin layer of silt but I found one narrow strip of gravel that I assume was the original road to the bottom when it was being dug out, but of more interest to me was a 4 foot wide and 20foot long area of very hard silt free clay and a very large area of hard clay 10 foot by 20 foot in front of a swim called dead man's corner.

I moved into dead man's and spodded out a lot of chilli hemp, boilies and tinned chick peas.

Two rods were place at each end of the hard clay area and one rod very close to the reeds to my right. At 5àm the feed rod ripped

off and a cracking 26lb common graced my net, two hours later the middle rod on the right hand side of the hard clay area went into meltdown and I landed a 27lb common. Now this might sound a bit niggley but I was fed up with 20lb commons, all I ever caught at the club lakes were commons and it seem as though my run of commons was set to continue, but I was still pleased to have caught 3 good carp in my first two trips to the syndicate.

Before I left for home I spodded out all my remaining bait onto the clay area and left the marker and spod rods on the clips in the hope I could get back into dead man's next session. My luck was in and the swim was empty there was only one other chap on the lake, muscle John, if you saw his arms you would know why he's called that. John had caught a low double and said he hadn't seen much showing, yet my confidence was sky high. An hour after casting out a double slipped into my net and just as I was putting it back my left hand rod burst into

life, which ended up being another double but at least this one was a mirror. John had a walk down for a chat early evening and just as he walked into my swim my left hand rod went again resulting in yet again a 20lb common. That session I ended up with 5 carp in three days.

Session three I decided to give dead man's a rest and went into Billy no mates swim where I had found the narrow hard clay strip.

During the first night I had a double which was the first one I had from there in the dark, but it seemed a bit quiet with nothing showing and no takes. On the second morning Alby turned up early, now Alby had joined at the same time as myself but so far he hadn't caught a thing, except for quite a few of the jack like that the lake seem to have hoards of. Alby caught them as he retrieved his rigs quite a few times, something I had managed to avoid so far.

After a chat and a cuppa Alby went into a swim about 50 yards

to my right, he had been there a couple of hours when I heard him shout out, without thinking I went down to his aid and netted his first syndicate carp for him at 19lb. After taking a few pics for him we stood chatting and suddenly I realized I could hear a buzzing noise and like a complete armpit I had left my rods out. Now I have never been much of a runner but with a dodgey hip it was more of a fast waddle than a run but eventually I got back to my swim to see my left hand rod bent around hard and the spools bombing around. Picking up the rod I realized how much line had gone of the reel and I was now in contact with a very angry carp that was well over 200 yards away from me. Luckily the lake is almost totally snag free and after what seemed like hours the carp was plodding around in front of me. Alby had followed me to my swim and was standing behind me with the net at the ready. Very slowly I coaxed the carp over the awaiting net, it was only then that I realized how big it was. It was the lakes thirty, called warrior

at **35lb 4oz** my first 30 and it was a mirror, to say I was chuffed would be a vast understatement.

Nothing else was caught that session but I really couldn't have cared less. Then two sessions after the warrior capture the unbelievable happened.

I had caught a couple of carp on the first day and then it had gone quiet, Phil Mayo (squeeze) had done a couple of night over the far side and had caught a few carp and on his way home popped in to have a chat. I was just about to recast when Phil spotted a carp swirl about 90 yards across the lake and he pointed it out to me, so I put the bait right in the middle of the swirl. As Phil left his last words to me were don't be a greedy bugger and catch that thirty again.

He must have only just got to the gate when the rod that I just cast out went of into a very fast run. This was without a doubt the most powerful fish I had ever

hooked. I have no idea how long I was playing it for but I do know my arm was aching and I was beginning To wonder if I,d ever land it. I reckon I was playing the carp for 20 minutes before, with an immense amount of relief I pulled in across my net, it looked huge and on the scales it went

34lb 6oz a common, Now considering I had been told there was only one thirty in the lake I was doubting my eyesight and my scales, just as I put the common into the sling to get my camera sorted I heard a motor coming down the track, it was muscle John, He weighed the carp again and confirmed the weight, he called me a very lucky custard (I think that's what he said) and took pics for me. After asking all the other syndicate members no one knew this big common it wasn't until a couple of months after my catch that Catweasle showed me a photo of a carp he'd caught 7 years previously at 23lb which after checking the photos we confirmed it was definitely the same carp.

Warrier...
My first 30



The unknown 30
Common



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Churchgate Lakes

A new Beginning



by Scott
Geezer Grant

Churchgate Lakes is situated in Battlesbridge Essex, it's a complex of three lakes, about 4 years ago I visited the complex and fished a session with the then fishery manager.

The complex has been purchased by a young entrepreneur Jodi Sims in April 2020 and he has already turned the place into something special in the short time he has owned it. The Top lake has been completely renovated with a mud free path around the whole of the lake. All the swims

have been completely rebuilt and spaced out to give each angler enough water to fish. There are electric sockets in every swim so even in the depths of winter you can keep yourself warm with an electric blow heater, plus you can charge whatever you need to (make sure you bring an extension lead). Jodi is also putting Fibre Wi-Fi in every swim, so he really is going all out to make the place something special.

This is replicated on the middle lake,

and the bottom lake is currently being renovated to the same high standards as the Top and Middle lakes.

Stock wise the Top Lake has had over 2000lb of silver fish removed, plus the carp that had torn mouths and were a bit beaten up. Jodi has introduced 5 x 20lb plus and 4 x 30lb plus fish to the current stock of around 150 carp.

The middle lake has had all the silverfish removed and 5 new 20lb plus fish added to the current unknown stock.



The bottom lake has seen the introduction of 5 x C5 scaley stunners ranging from 16lb – 25lb.

The onsite shop has been completely renovated and gone is all the match gear, he now stocks all the latest products from most of the biggest tackle companies in England.

Trakker, Korda, Nash, Ridgemonkey, Mainline to name a few and Churchgate are now official Delkim stockists which is a great achievement.

Jodi has a 5-year plan in place which will see a total of £120,000 spent on fish for all 3 lakes and he has already completed the first year of this plan. The complex reminds me of the sort of place you would find in France with all the bells and whistles.

At the end of last year, I was in contact with Jodi, and he invited me to fish one of his lakes. I took him up on his offer, I was originally booked in for 2 x 2night sessions but due to the latest government rules, Jodi changed

my booking to 2 x 1-day sessions, as the current lockdown rules stated it was days only.

Now for me this is something new, with that I mean booking a swim even before I have got to the lake. As I predominately fish syndicate waters, I turn up before first light do a couple of laps of the lake before settling on a swim. Taking into consideration the weather, i.e., wind direction, pressure, time of year.

Jodi had booked me into swim 3 which is in



the Northeast corner of the lake and on the end of a South Westerly wind, and he said with extreme confidence that the swim was producing the goods.

I turned up nice and early and because of the booking system, I made my way straight to the swim. A service that they also provide is they will take all your gear to your swim in the dedicated onsite buggy for a fee of £5 return. Again, this is something that most anglers will take them up on as it takes the

stress and arm ache away from you. Once all my gear was in the swim, I flicked the marker out and the bottom is pretty uniform, in the way of silt/gravel and no weed to worry about. The water was coloured up which is a sign the fish are moving about. I fished the Ronnie rig with white nutjob pops and a bunch of maggots on top to give it an edge that will catch the fishes eye. I also scattered a few freebies about and some crumb. A few hours in and I could see a few fish crashing

in front of swim 1 right where the cut through to the other side of the lake is. I checked with the shop that no one was booked into swim 1 and it was ok to swap, they confirmed this was ok and arranged for my tackle to be collected from swim 3 and moved round to swim 1 for a mere £2.50 fee.

I used the same bait setup as earlier and a few hours later I banked a lovely plump 19lb mirror, this was followed just before dusk by a mid-double mirror.





I packed up and left the lake only to return the next day. I checked the online booking system and swim 1 was booked out so I opted for swim 5 which gave me access to the far margins plus when the angler leaves who is booked into swim 6, I can fish the cut through to the lake at the other side.

Again, I arrived early, and my gear was ferried to the swim, I grabbed a few pints of maggots from the shop as they work

wonders in the colder months and would fish the same way I did yesterday. With the rods all out towards the far margin I sat back and put the kettle on. Again, I didn't have to wait long before I had a lovely plump low double common in the net. I really thought it was going to be a mental day, but it went completely dead after that. Later in the afternoon the bloke in swim 6 packed up and left so I moved 2 rods over towards the cut





extensive work being carried out of what will surely be one of the top fisheries in Essex.

To become a member of the complex you

through and just before dusk I had a flurry of fish banking 3 grass carp to mid double plus another plump common of the same stamp. Unfortunately, I didn't manage to bank any of the 30lbbers that reside there but

nevertheless I had a couple of great days, and it was lovely to fish from what can only be described as a VIP box office swim, well in fact all the swims are like VIP boxes. No doubt I will be back in the future to see the

first have to register your interest in the onsite shop. Once this is complete you will be invited by Jodi (considering you meet the required standard) and pay a yearly fee.



Membership

Fee 01.03.2021 -

01.03.2022 - £75

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2 rods - £40.00

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Mon-Thurs

Management review 3

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For more information on Churchgate Lakes visit their website www.churchgate-lakes.com

You can also call the onsite shop on 01245-325289.

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

www.galaxybaits.co.uk

www.sharptackle.co.uk

www.castaway-pva.co.uk

In the Margin Particles (Facebook)

www.talkingcarp.co.uk

For all your PVA needs head over to the brand-new Castaway website. Where you will find an array of PVA products that can help you in your fishing.

I hope the rest of 2021 brings everyone good health and plenty of chunks in the net. Stay safe and remember its only fishing.

Scott "Geezer"
Grant



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SONIK SKX SNAG EARS



Trade Talk 2-Bait

by Andy Murray



Hi all, as I'm sat typing this, summer seems to have finally arrived, it's just so nice being able to wear shorts and vest, I don't know about you, but I'm fed up of being cold and wet when I go fishing.

As I am now doing a monthly fishing blog both on the Wolf and DT baits websites. These articles on here tend to be more of a discussion on topical things that I am doing or involved in fishing wise. Last month's article on Trade talk and working with Wolf created a lot of interest and a number of serious discussions with folk, which is always good, as it means I hit a real point of conversation. So, I thought this month I would keep with the trade talk and talk about bait, bait companies and sponsorship and how anglers can access this in their approach to fishing, as well as few bits about my own fishing, I hope it all comes together to read. It came about through several conversations with different people at some of the events I attended recently as well as a recent short session of my own on the Pits.

It is estimated there are something like 500 bait companies in the UK now. There are the really big well-known brands, next, the medium

sized companies, then the smaller companies, lastly, what we call the garage companies which spring up almost daily, (taking on the big boys), as they put it, bypassing the 'carp tax' another well-known saying! Those of us who have fished for long enough have at some point made our own bait. Back in the late 80's and early 90's I had really serious boilie making equipment, a catering size mixer, a compressor and bait gun, a large rolling table and huge pans for boiling. We used to make around 400-500 eggs worth of bait at a time, this was when we would be looking to create bait dominance on a lake, by putting enough bait in to get a lock on it from the carp, it was very effective as well. I had sourced a supply of fishmeal used for feeding koi, I used to buy a ton at a time, in its raw state it was a perfect mix for boilies. I would go to a bait supplier direct and ask for a gallon of Salmon oil or a litre of Shellfish Sense Appeal, a few bottles of an essential oil flavour, coupled with ingredients from the wholesalers such as MSG and other additives, dependent on whether you were trying to create a sweet or savoury bait. We did make some great bait that caught a lot of carp, and it costs pennies when done in bulk

It was hard work making it though and the storage was always an issue.

Eventually, as companies started rolling bait and supplying it at a good price, due to becoming team members (which I'll come back to), we stopped making the bait and moved to buying it ready-made. Going back to the 'carp tax', which I did cover in my last article, for some reason anglers expect to get everything either for nothing or at cost price in both bait and tackle. You can make a reasonably well-balanced boilie for not a lot of cost, we all know that, and I know some anglers enjoy making their own bait. So, when an angler makes some bait up and then looks at the cost to doing that and then comparing what you would pay in the tackle shop, of course there is a huge difference. For a company running its business legitimately there is the cost of manufacture, storage, packaging, marketing, delivery, staff, VAT. Etc. Then the retailer has similar costs again. So, it's bound to be more expensive than someone making bait in their own

kitchen or garage as a sideline for cash, of which social media is now full of ads for... Now, here's the thing, for a lot of anglers, what they are also buying is confidence in a bag, a proven bait backed up by a company and its testers, a formula that catches carp (when used correctly!). Going back to when we made our own bait, we would always make test batches of a new bait, I mean you wouldn't start on a 400-500 egg mix without some idea of how the end product would be, would you? We wanted to understand the texture-hard, soft, crumbly, and how long boiling it changed all those, also the flavour combinations and palatants, then would the carp eat it and come back for more. Sorry, I digressed a bit here, but for some anglers,



especially those new to carp-fishing, bait can be a minefield, so they start in the shops and take it from there, accepting there is a cost for this.

The next best way to reduce the price you pay for bait then, if you have decided you don't want to go down the route of making it yourself, is to sign up with a company. This can be in the form of a being labelled a 'field tester', so you get bait at trade price in

exchange for pictures and catch reports, the next move is to be a 'Consultant', your bait will cost less or nothing, but you must have a lot more input and prove to the company you are worth the bait they are paying you. So, in effect you will be more involved in promoting the company to others. Some anglers are ok with this, and some are not, some don't want to tell others what they are catching or where they are catching, that

makes it difficult then. There are a handful of anglers, as I have said before getting paid to go fishing, this is a big ask from a bait company, you have to prove your name will sell their bait, they need to see an increase in sales for your involvement, if you can prove that you could be looking at asking for 5-10% of the increase as well as unlimited supplies of bait for all your needs. Which may sound great, but realistically you have to increase sales by 100k to earn 10k, that's at trade price as well, that is a tall order, no matter how good an angler you might think you are. At this level you need to be full time and I think the money you earn would not be anything like the same as you could earn in most lines of work.



That's the point a lot of anglers miss in their quest to be 'famous'. What I would say to any angler looking to get involved with a company, make sure you like the people you are going to be involved with, there has to be a synergy between what they want and what you want. Things will not always go to plan, and you need a level of understanding when that occurs. Also, and this is a big thing, you will be going from fishing for enjoyment to fishing for results! This can be very trying, catching to order and I have seen anglers really lose the plot going down this road, it can become catch at all costs and they end up becoming disillusioned with the whole thing, I have been there and have that t-shirt! I had a weekly column in Carp-Talk for over 2 years, it takes some doing to write a page or two every week, and catch carp to go with it. There is no doubt the carp fishing fraternity is an unusual one. I think the longer one has been involved with it, the more acceptance of things that happen. But newcomers only see their view and can end up in trouble because of this, with some of the attitudes we now see, I'll leave it there.

So, for my part I am happy to be a Consultant with DT baits and

Wolf, help with the promotion and hopefully in due course be involved with some new products as I am doing working with both of these. To me being involved is the key though, as it's not all about catching carp (which is just as well sometimes!).

I joined DT Baits a few months ago, I liked the ethos of the guys I met and their plans for moving forward. So, a bit of background about DT baits, I'm doing my consultants bit now, talking about the company...

Fenton, the new owner took over DT baits last Autumn, then spent a



few months sorting out the factory, looking to improve the overall look and efficiency of bait making for the future of the company. He started that by having a total strip out of the factory, getting rid of anything that wasn't nailed down, re-surfacing the floor, and replacing a lot of the old, ageing equipment. I have personally seen in the last 2 years examples of what happens when things are not clean and bait gets contaminated, when it's plain mouldy you can see it, but you can't always see things like this so easily, you could be fishing with a sub-standard bait and not even know it. They wanted to start with a totally clean sheet. To clear a factory down to bare walls after it has been in existence for 30 years is no mean feat and you can see by the picture the level they went to. As with all bait companies now, there is minefield of paperwork to complete to manufacture food products, even for fishing bait. So many

months have passed before things really started to progress. What DT did have though, was a really great pedigree of proven carp-catching bait, tried and tested for many years around the UK and Europe. That's a head start on most. When I spoke about some of the costs, you can see from the picture just a small sample of promotional material, add to that building and maintaining a website, all the Social Media aspects these days. This is all necessary to even start to get some shelf space in fishing retailers, which they are now starting to do after many absent years. All this takes time, money and effort, you can't afford to even pause for breath.



The next things to do then was get the team together for a few days, to all get together and get some filming done as well. Fenton booked several swims at Berners Hall, Carpology were there for two days to film each of the anglers, each on their own favourite subject of fishing, as well as some actual fishing footage as well. Some of the guys have been with DT for a while and some like myself were new to the team, so it was great to meet everyone, Fenton brought along some Chinese food and a few beers along on the first night, so we had a social and chat. What a way to build up a team and get them working together, a lot of companies could learn from this. I'm already very comfortable fishing with the N-Blend, when you have fished for a carp for a long time, you get to recognize what is a good bait pretty quickly. I love the nutty aroma of the N-Blend, as with all the DT baits, there are a number of different types of hookbaits and liquids to along with whatever bait you choose from their stable. Now, and I have said this many times before, when trying a new bait, I will always give it a fair trial, not just one or two sessions, so I plan to use this for the rest of the year, then I may switch to one of the fishmeal

type baits next year (always experimenting!), there are so many to choose from as well. As I said previously, I'm using the N-Blend in chops and whole boilies, this is then getting a good dollop of the DNA liquid and then some Stick mix added. I am making this up the day before so the whole mix has time to really absorb all the flavours. To press its working well (when I'm in the right swim!).

So, whilst I wasn't really on the carp and catching, a few of us in the middle of the line were struggling for a bite, some of the others were catching and some nice carp were being banked, Andrew was fishing next to me, who really was getting into the carp, he obviously knew the lake well and where the fish were dipping down in front of him to feed, he was getting multiple takes over the session, I was there mainly as his Ghillie! The carp he was catching were really passing the bait out as well, so it showed they were on it and feeding hard. This is great to see, I knew there was nothing wrong from the bait approach point of view I was using as he was on the same bait as me, as it is most times, it's about being in the right place at the right time, then add to that fishing well, which he was doing. The weather had

turned pretty bad, and I spent the day in the wind and rain helping him net carp, take pics et. We were both soaked and frozen. I have to say it was a lesson itself watching him fish. Sometimes we maybe need to see someone else in action. I tend to fish mostly on my own, so don't get very much time watching others fish close up. In the 90's and early 2000's we saw it a lot more with the Carp Schools we ran at Horseshoe and the then big Carp Matches we fished in that period. We were always doing things and learning from each other. I do think that is something that has been missing from my own fishing in recent years. Watching Andrew fish, his attention to detail in setting his rigs, how much bait, getting on the spots, topping up the swim, everything was just right, add to it a carp catching bait and the results showed. There were some nice carp caught that trip and they will appear on the DT site, so I'll leave it there for now.

I had a social trip to Trent View with a few of the lads who we are going to France with next year, the idea being to get to know each other a bit before the trip. The fishing was slow, I managed to winkle one out, but it was slow going on our side,

on the opposite side of the lake there were a number of carp being caught. Nevertheless, we had a good time, just generally hanging out, chatting and fishing. We had an awesome BBQ on the second night, Ian and his daughter joined us for a meal and glass or two. It was only fair as he and his team always look after us. We were booked in for 3 days, but my wife wasn't so well, she is still suffering from effects of the Chemo and various treatments, so I headed for home early. Just to say about Trent View, it's a great, well run fishery, with some stunning carp if I lived a bit nearer, I would definitely put more time in here. I managed to get a couple of night on my own water the A1 Pits, banking a nice common on one of those nights. On one of those trips, I had a long chat with a couple of guys who I know well, who have both caught some nice carp from here in the last 2 months, there is no doubt, in my absence the big lake has fished very well this year. Both of the guys have confidence in their approach and the bait they are using, but and it is a big but, you have to be there enough time for this to work. There is no doubt that all the travelling around I have done this past 2 months has cost me in the carp catching stakes on here,

soon the carp will spawn and it will all get a bit harder. I have no one else but myself to blame for not being there, I know some of you think I am fishing all the time but I'm not. I fish one night a week, occasionally 2 nights, over committing in other areas a few times has cost me my own time on the bank, that's my choice, so there is no point in blaming anyone else. The reality is that I don't have enough bank time to get amongst the bigger fish on here, 4-, 5- and

6-day sessions are a holiday for me, I'm also not sure I could just sit and wait for that long either. Hopefully, I can get a bit more regular time on the bank in the months to come, with all that is going on. Our trip to France in July hangs in the balance now, I'm still hopeful it will go ahead. I'll let you know next month.

Catch you next time.

Andy





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Dave Locke



Can a Blank be Positive?
by Matty Allen

Hello folks. I hope this article and latest addition of Talking Carp finds you well?

Are you able to get on a carp lake or is it still near impossible to get a swim down your local venue?

Since my last article was published about the podcast I help co-host, Carp Cogs, I have been thinking a lot about what I can write about? The main reason for this is I'm on a bit of a blanking streak at the moment. So, I can't write a carp article if I haven't caught any carp?

Can I?

I have also been chatting to the other 50% of Carp Cogs, Reza O'Donnell, recently about our back catalogue of episodes and planning future episodes. I joked with Rez that I'm starting to feel a fraud. I haven't caught anything recently and we were talking about what we have learnt and what the podcast guests have brought to our angling. It dawned on me that actually, I have blanked a fair bit recently, but I feel a better carp angler than I was 6 months ago. How can that be possible?

Can you learn from a blank?

Can you take positives from a blank?

Can you stay positive in your tactics while blanking?

In my humblest of opinions, yes you can.

I have been fishing with a couple of fantastic anglers in the last couple of sessions I have fished. Both have caught and I haven't. I must be useless? A nobby!

I'm not doing anything different to what the 2 lads are doing. My bait is the same or similar. Fishing similar swims and spots. We fish very similar rigs. Our baiting approaches are very similar.

So, if I'm not doing anything overly different, why haven't I caught? Bad

luck? Potentially yes, a little. But actually, I believe I'm being a little bit of a sheep. I am fishing effectively and well. But, as I'm on an established syndicate, am I being a little safe as I don't want to raise any eye brows? Definitely.

My plan for next season is to do it differently and go back to basics. Do the simple aspects well and stop trying to do it other people's way? I might stop fishing pop ups and wafers, shock. My might bin the Ronnie/spinner/hinge stiff and fish a simple hair rig. For me now my priority is to get a solid effective rig, super sharp hook in the right place.

Everyone likes to bait with boilees in a nice close area. So why not spread some bait? Get the carp grazing and moving. At the end of the day, the easiest carp to catch is the carp that swims and tightens your rig into their mouth. So why do I want to concentrate all my boilees close together when it maybe more effective, in this situation, to catch a grazing carp? Why not spod some particle, maggot, oils, pellets, sweetcorn, chops, crumbs, etc. Give them a nice mixed banquet. Give my self some bait options out in front of me? Can I condition spooky carp to like a spod and respond to a spod?

The syndicate is notorious for carp backing off a spod. But if no one uses then surely the rare occasions it comes out will spook them? If they are allowed to visit a spodded area and feed without being caught, surely, they become easier to catch? Can I condition these seriously spooky carp to feed



hard and respond to the noise of a spod?

I might have to try.

Bait approach wise I'm also giving consideration to not giving them any. If they are cautious of bait, cautious of a spod, don't feed hard, then surely a small simple trap would be an easier safer meal for a big wise old carp? Do I need to put a bright pop up or wafter out? Would a simpler bait presentation be a more logical approach? Match the hatch?

The thing I find positive is that I have blanked a few times and have found it hard going on the syndicate. But I have taken a positive here and am more motivated.

I mentioned above rigs. Such a subjective subject and I do not for one minute think I can preach to you guys as I'm not an expert carp angler. But I do feel that I could ask myself some questions? Soft braid over stiff booms? Shorter rigs? Longer rigs? If I'm getting the carp confidently grazing a longer rig could be more effective? Would a shorter rig fished for one bite at a time be more effective? Like I said, a subjective topic. Again, most work, but maybe simplifying is what my syndicate fishing needs.

Perhaps I could look at scaling the hooks down! I often fish a size 4 on the big lake, but maybe a 6 or even an 8 maybe more effective?

I do feel however that I have learnt a large amount about location of the carp and their behaviour.

The last time I fished the big lake before the close season my first-choice swims were taken and it was busy. I therefore set up in a swim that has does fish in the past, especially as there was a lot of bird life in



front of me. I sat there until lunchtime and my good friend Kev turned up to fish a couple of nights. Kev went for a walk around the lake as he had time to play with. When he came back, he had an interesting observation, that all the carp were down the other end of the lake. I have long suspected that the carp back off the angling pressure. Seems obvious, but its certainly seems this way on the big lake.

I quickly wound the rods in and got on my toes, I had about 5 hours to make it happen. I got down the other end of the lake and they were there in numbers. I was seeing carp everywhere and even some of the A team. Now although I blanked, I saw more shows in that few hours then in my whole season before. I thought to myself, if I could do the night, I'm catching. Sadly, I had to leave on dark. My thoughts were correct as the angler 2 swims to my left had 3, the angler to my right had a 33lb and the angler that dropped in my swim in the morning had 2. All fish up to 38lb. Most of you might have cried, but I took it as a positive. I worked out where the fish were with a nudge from a good friend. I saw them and studied their behaviour and my thoughts on bites came to reality, although to others.

Bait wise I couldn't be happier.

I have started using DT Bait Developments (I am not sponsored by DT Baits) and although my catch rate hasn't been brilliant, the baits are amazing. Something for everyone, a proven track record and the most amazing customer services. Again, although on a blank, I have found a bait company during my walk through the wilderness of Carpy blanking torture and I feel confident in the products. This is a positive to be sure. Give them a try.

I also made a tough decision. I have upgraded my shimano big bait runners for some front drag, lighter, Big Pits. My reason for this is that on a few occasions down the big lake, I have not been able to accurately and consistently hit the ranges I wanted to fish. The session I discussed above; I could not get to the showing carp initially. My rods are Harrisons 3.25 TC, the line was top class and at 6ft 7 inches, I felt I should be

getting the rigs further with less effort.

I'm now the proud owner of some Daiwa Crosscasts and couldn't be happier for the reels I have for the budget I had.

This season I have a night ticket and am going to hopefully put some fish on the bank. As there is a complete advertising ban on catches and advertising the syndicate, you may never know if I do take my learnt information and theories forward to catches. Maybe we could work out some kind of cryptic clue in future articles for me to alert you to any successes?

Blanks happen and there is nothing we can do about it. Even the professional Carp anglers we look up to blank. The challenge is to remain confident, read the water and situation in front of you. Understand and learn where the fish are and their behaviours. Be confident in what you are doing and don't over complicate your fishing.

Keeping this mindset, adapting positively and fishing my way, to my strengths, will certainly see a carp turn up again soon for a picture.

Stay safe you all, give the Carp Cogs podcast a listen, pop over to the Facebook group and say hi and give our friends at DT Bait Developments a look as I think they are brilliant.

Tight Lines

Matt x



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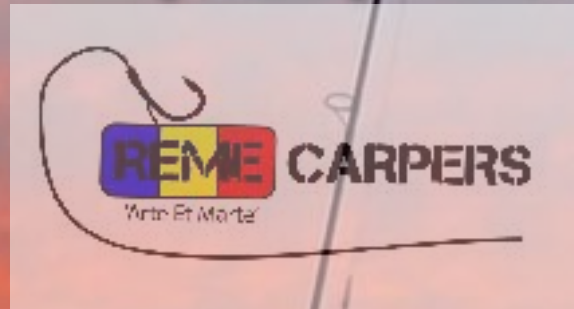


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The Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME) Carp Championship at Baden Hall



By Josh Row (Press Officer) & Mark Carper

I have been associated with the Team of the 'REME Carpers' for a few years now and try to drop in to see the lads when they are fishing as often as I can. I also fish Socially with a few of them and have had some good sessions both here and in Europe with them. However, with the current situation the REME Carpers have been unable to conduct their Qualifying Events (QE) for the Annual Inter Corps Carp Championship (ICCC) as they have done in previous years but with the Covid "Road Map" allowing restrictions to ease and following Government guidelines the Army Sports Control Board

has allowed fishing to recommence.

With this news, the Committee set about planning the next QE, but this presented a new challenge of finding a lake to suit the group with its' growing numbers and a larger than usual venue was needed.

After many phone calls and emails, a venue at Norton Disney was finally sorted and everything was being organised in accordance with Government Guidelines on Social Gatherings and Social Distancing etc. and it was just a case of awaiting the event date which was the 19th to the 21st of May.

However, due

to unfortunate circumstances the venue cancelled the booking and a last-minute venue change had to be sorted which resulted in the competition being moved with only five days' notice to Baden Hall Fisheries, with Lodge Pool being the selected water for what was to be their second QE and their own REME Carp Championship.

Lodge Pool seemed the logical lake to hold the match. Being around four acres in size, it could easily hold the eighteen anglers that would be fishing to try and claim the title of REME Champion, along with securing points to place them in with a chance of representing the



REME at the Inter Corps Carp Competition (ICCC).

With the lake boasting all the features a Carp Angler could want from over hanging trees, far margin reed beds and plateaus, every swim had the opportunity to take the top spot. With fish known to go to 25lb there was also chance of a few people breaking their PB's too.

The evening before the event with some anglers already bivvied up on the Rugby Pitch at Baden Hall, they conducted, via 'Zoom', the REME Carpers AGM to discuss business going forward for the following year and at the end of this meeting, they also conducted the draw to decide the order of Swim Choice, which would be based on Watercraft after a 'Socially

Distanced' lake walk on the morning of the Match.

During the meeting, it was also decided that unlike previous matches where total weight was the deciding factor, only the five biggest fish for each angler would count in this match.

This meant it was less likely there would be no 'Hot Peg' as there had been in previous events.

As the rest of the Anglers arrived in the morning at designated 'Time Slots' due to Social Distancing Rules, everyone was eager to get on the lake and get their rods in the water and once the last angler had arrived and was in their swim everyone was then allowed to set up and bait/



feature find their designated water. Usually, they allow two hours for this but due to the staggered arrivals this was cut to one hour.

It was at this point, I arrived and keeping to the 'Covid Rules', I promptly "Elbow Jabbed" and "Lightly Fist Pumped" my way around the lake...!

Once the hour was over the call of "all

in" was given and the event began.....

Day one of the event saw a break from the torrential rainfall we had seen so far during May and the sun was actually out in full force and so were the 'Guns' with a few even brave enough to bare all from the waist up...well, they are Britain's finest...!!

With fish cruising around on the surface

due to the higher temperature and the high pressure everyone was seeing Carp in front of them but under match rules, no 'Surface fishing' was allowed, so a few switched to 'Zigs', choosing to fish them anywhere from two feet to six inches below the surface.... but the Carp just kept cruising by and everyone was struggling as the Carp were reluctant to get their heads down and feed.... At one point during the mid-afternoon, I was speaking with WO2 Rudi Strydom, who was fishing one of the end 'Bays' and he counted over fifteen Carp in an area in front of him of about 3 square meters.... and not one of them could be tempted...

but he was not alone in seeing this and all the lads could 'see' the carp, it was catching them that was going to be the problem, especially given the sudden change in the weather.....!

However, in an area



on the opposite side to Rudi and down to his right-hand side, was an area known as "No Fish Bay" which happened to be just a couple of feet deep and Sgt. Jonny Partenheimer (JP to his mates, so everyone there calls him Jonny

Partenheimer) was off to a flyer. Fishing small PVA bags with a Pop-Up within a foot of his far margin reed bed, he had managed to land two Carp within the first couple of hours and was the man to chase...

....With the leaderboard being updated on the Group Facebook Page,

everyone was under pressure early on and soon the majority could resist no longer and the 'Spods' were flying in nearly every swim with PVA Bags swiftly following. As if by magic, we saw fish were starting to be tripped up around the lake with a few of the lads getting there first Carp of the day safely landed and weighed, but as quickly as it started and with the heat of the sun warming the water, the feeding spell stopped, and everything went quiet. With a few of the lads losing fish in the late afternoon, the hope was that the night would bring cooler weather and get the Carp interested in feeding again.... or at least the Beers would be

Adam Tallett 22lb 10oz



Luke bedford 13lb 2oz



cooler if nothing else....!!

With the sunrise on day two, unfortunately most of the guys had managed to have a decent night's sleep. However, over in Peg 1, which was the swim at the end of the 'Horseshoe' shape,

WO2 Adam Croser, who had put the groundwork in early in the day to find some likely spots and sat patiently waiting to drop a rig over his pre-baited areas, had managed to bag himself two nice Carp during the night. One of them, a nice-looking Mirror tipped the scales to 23lb which, although early doors, had set him up to earn him the 'Biggest Fish' Trophy.

With the forecast showing a mainly overcast sky with patchy sunshine, the second day felt like it would present a better opportunity to get those all-important five fish on the board and around mid-morning the fish started to grace the net cords of a few of the lads and with fish coming from all around the lake it looked like the competition

could come down to ounces instead of pounds and with the average weight of the Carp being caught being around the 10lb mark everyone knew they had to find the bigger fish amongst these to put in to their top five.

By mid-afternoon a few people had managed two to three fish with others still trying to get off the mark and

some were just being plagued by the Carp Anglers nightmare, the dreaded 'Bream', although one of the anglers amongst them, who shall remain nameless to save his embarrassment, but who is known to all as Tommy 'The Boy' Goyne claims that catching a Bream, when Carp Fishing is a "Blank Saver...!!!" Seriously...I have no words??!

Over in No Fish Bay, JP (see they are his friends) was now not counting his smaller fish with the bigger ones making up his five as he kept managing to find them from the same far margin spot and he was the man to catch as he was still the only angler with five fish to his name with a few others on three.

The angler looking like he could catch JP was Cpl Joshua Row who had landed four fish so far. He had been picking them off from next to a tree of the island opposite him and using similar baiting tactics as most of the guys by casting small PVA bags and bottom baits as tight as possible to his designated area



and feeding little and often.

With the final night approaching everyone knew they would have to work hard to try and take the win away from JP who had by now landed around 95lb of Carp but could only count his top five giving him a respectable 57lb.

However, the weather had other plans and took a massive downturn....

...With strong winds and torrential rain everyone took shelter in their bivvies and took the opportunity to bait up only when there was a break in the horrendous downpours (and I buggered off home).

As night fell the lake was quiet until

early the hours on the final day when LCpl Stephen Smith (Smudge (I wonder why they call him that??!)) had the Carp in front of him suddenly 'Switch On' and he started netting Carp after Carp.

This accelerated him from nowhere on the leaderboard straight in to Second Place.... we had a proper Championship Match on our hands....

....Not long after, Josh Row managed to bag himself another nice Carp which moved him back in to Second Place and he was on five fish.

There was now a battle underway for Second because if 'Smudge' could land another it would be five a piece and down to final weight....Dun

Dun Durrrr (That was supposed to be a 'Dramatic Sound')

However, as is usual for the REME Carpers, the Carp had other ideas and the lake was eerily quiet on the final morning. With the wind blowing a gale and the rain still hammering down, the lads could only pray their alarms would scream into life and bring them closer to the win and those much-needed points in the QE.

With only a few hours to go until the match was over JP over in the now infamous No Carp Bay, still had a solid ead with his five fish total weighing 57lb 5oz. Josh had managed five, but his total weight was only

53lb 12oz. This meant he would need to bag at least a 15lb Carp to take the win by the time he cancelled off his smallest fish, which was going to be a tall order given the average size was 10lb.

Determined to give it one last push, SSgt Adam Tallett, who had quietly worked away on the first day (under my expert tuition..ssshhhh..!) and landed a couple of Carp, managed to bag himself a beautiful looking 22.10lb Mirror for Carp number four, which saw him move in to Third Place, pushing Smudge down to fourth. Ironically, all Adam needed to do was land one of those ten pounders, that everyone else was

hoping to avoid, and he would take Second Place away from Josh...!

As they moved into the final hour and during a fortunate break in the weather the lads started a slow pack away of their kit as they needed to be off the lake by 08:00 as other anglers would be arriving from 09:00 so they couldn't leave it until the end, but the majority still had rods out with rigs still on the spots, just hoping to get a bite in the last dying minutes.

For some it would just mean not blanking, but that wasn't a concern for Tommy 'The Boy' Goyne as he'd had his Bream...and for others it would make

a big difference to their points tally in the race to represent their Corps at the ICCC in September.

Josh was one of those with his rods still fishing and incredibly, his left-hand rod that was close to the island went into meltdown as line was stripped from the spool. Everyone looked on from their swims as the battle played out, all trying to catch a glimpse of the Carp and guess the weight and after a short battle the Carp showed itself and a decent looking Mirror slipped over the net cord....

.... With scales zeroed and the fish unhooked all that was left to do was the weighing. With both

Josh Row

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Josh Row 18lb 12oz



Josh Row 18lb 12oz



holding their breath, the Mirror tipped the scales around to 18.12lb, and after a few calculations and checks it was confirmed that Josh had indeed just taken the lead from JP with less than thirty minutes of the match remaining and JP's rods packed away...!

That Mirror was to be the final fish of the match.... and Josh Row was declared the winner and the "REME Carp Champion" All that was left to do was to pack up, do the prize giving "while adhering to social distancing guidelines" and set off home...and try and dry out their soaking wet gear...!

With the final “All Out”, the 23lb Common to WO2 Adam Croser had secured him the trophy for Biggest Fish of the match and it happened to also be the biggest of the REME Carpers season so far, so a big congratulations to him. Adam was using Bait and End Tackle supplied by:
<https://rgbaits.co.uk/>
<https://www.kryston.com/en/>
<https://www.jprecisionhooks.co.uk/>

SSgt Adam Tallett had secured himself Third Place with his 22lb 10oz mirror giving him biggest weight of four fish from a steady consistent performance and a Healthy Bankside

diet...no seriously, he ate healthy for the whole 48 hours, something is very wrong with that man..! Sadly Ads isn't sponsored by a Bait or Tackle company, however, he is a bit partial to a 'WOFTE' Clothing deal..!

Sgt Jonny Partenheimer, or JP as we were all calling him by the end of the session, came in Second with a five fish total weight of 57lb 5oz....I think he caught over 100lb of Carp in total and under the old rule, would have taken the win with ease...

Well done and great angling JP in some difficult conditions... JP was fishing with Pop-Ups made by Will Partenheimer, his Dad, yes, that is not a typo, his Dad made his Pop-Ups and he was free feeding bait from <https://dnabaits.com/>

...but at the death, Cpl Joshua Row took the Top Spot for the



Biggest fish Adam C

Second Year in succession, I might add, to remain the “REME Carp Champion”..! He managed a five fish total weight of 64lb 8oz, so a massive congratulations to him for some very good angling and hard work right up until the end. Josh was using bait supplied by <http://www.pukkasquirrelbaits.co.uk>

****Breaking News****

At the time of writing this, I was notified that Josh, has earned his promotion from ‘Corporal’ to ‘Sargent’, so is now Sgt Joshua Row – Well Done Josh... Not only REME Carp

Champion but a Sargent too...!!!

Although it had been tough forty-eight hours with the weather being so harsh and the fish not wanting to play ball, everyone, including me, had a great time and just enjoyed being back on the bank to give what seemed like a little bit of normality back in their lives.

Everyone is very much looking forward now to the next QE where they will have the opportunity to compete for the final points that are up for grabs. This will be the last time before the team of six for the ICCC will be finalised and it is still all to play for, and anyone

has the chance to take a team place.... and the best bit, I’m fishing with them...!!!

On a personal note, a big thank you to all the lads for inviting me along and it was good to meet so many new Carp Anglers from the Corps. I would also like to say a huge thanks to ‘Carlos’ (Brigadier Carl Hartley) for keeping me supplied with Tea, Biscuits and the best laugh I have had in ages... and thank the lord you don’t eat Healthy, otherwise I would have starved...and obviously, this article has been written with some personal ‘Banter’ included for all the ‘Carpy’ Lads of:

The Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

Until next time
Gentlemen “Arte et
Marte”

Keep an eye out for
how the next QE
unfolds and you can
follow the REME
Carpers on their
Instagram Page,
which unsurprisingly
is @reme_carpers
(and they are in dire
need of followers)

You can also follow
me and the Magazine
on

@mark_carper257

@talkningcarp.
magazine



1st place Josh



2nd place
JP



3rd place
Adam T

Castaway PVA

System
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Castaway PVA
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4 Litres

Castaway
Slow Melting
Length: 25m



Castaway PVA
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Bank Life
Fishing-
Let's help kids
get
tackled up!
By Matt And Hannah



Matt and Hannah

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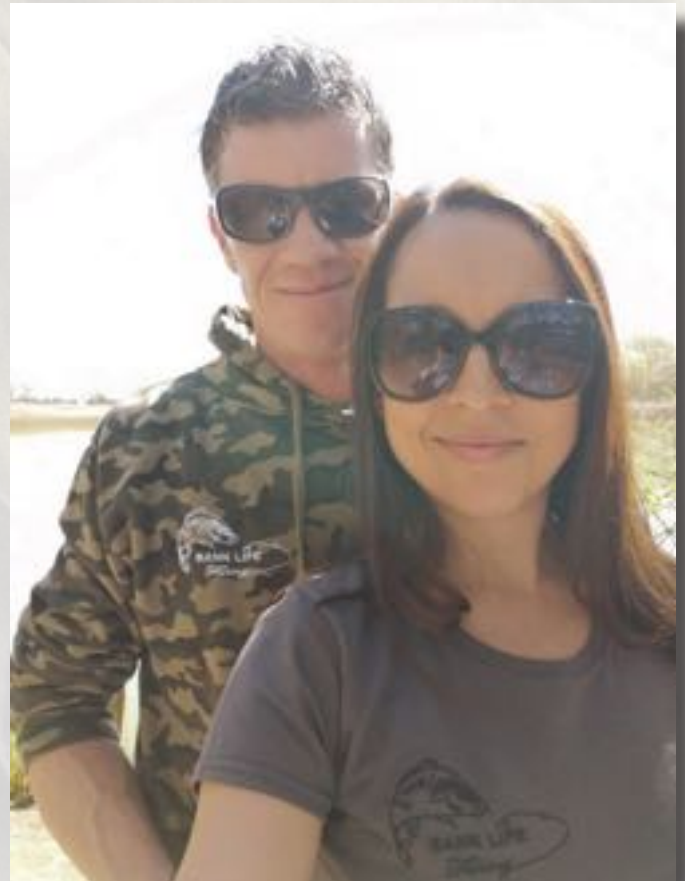
Loving nothing better than wetting a line ourselves - my husband and I decided that we wanted to do something to help more people, friends and families get out on the bank, fishing having fun, creating memories and enjoying all that nature has to offer. So, we decided to try and do just that and earlier this year set up Bank Life Fishing.

As a fishing family ourselves we were aware of the increasing number of female and young anglers enjoying time on the bank and were conscious that more representation was needed both in the form of angling clothing for the whole family and in overall support and encouragement to get out on the bank. As a result we have brought out a good quality, affordable clothing range for the whole family - men, women, children and even babies and run regular competitions to win fishing getaways and tackle all aimed around getting more people together on the bank, fishing.

In doing this we wanted to give back to the sport we love so much and help others less fortunate experience the joys of fishing and the amazing mental health benefits it brings so we decided to use our

profits to take disadvantaged kids and PTSD sufferers out fishing for the day away from all the day to day stresses and struggles they are unfortunately going through, hopefully introducing them into a new hobby and giving them a new focus but if nothing else just a day out having fun.

We are currently working with a charity called The Friendship Project and will be taking groups of the 70 young people that they are currently working with, out fishing for the day.



The first date is booked for the 22nd August at Old Oak Farm Fishery in Rugby and the second date is the 29th August at Burton Farm Fishery in Nuneaton.

We also plan to run open days across the country at various venues free to anyone who is going through a tough time suffering from PTSD, anxiety, depression, or any other similar mental health conditions or if you want to give fishing a go or take your kid's but haven't got or can't afford the equipment you are all more than welcome to come along and experience the joys and mental health benefits that fishing brings. Keep an eye on our social media pages for more info coming soon.

We are extremely excited about

these events with hopefully many more to come in the future as this is exactly what setting up the company was all about for us. We can't wait to see the joy on their faces when they catch their first fish! We both remember our first fish and it still puts a big smile on our faces as we're sure many of you can relate to! Your first fish is always a special one!

We are currently doing everything possible to raise the funds needed to purchase the necessary equipment. Among other fund raisers we are currently organising a donation type raffle and are asking as many people/companies as possible if they would consider helping by donating a prize.

We've had an amazing response and already have some amazing prizes up for grabs from the likes of Nash, Ridgemonkey, Guru, Linear Fisheries, Shatterford Fishery, Norfolk Boat Hire, AM Baits, Mere Popups, one off the spot and of course ourselves. £1 a ticket and 100% of the proceeds goes to making these events happen.





If anyone would like to get involved and help by purchasing tickets or donating a prize it would be very much appreciated so please do contact us.

We are proud sponsors of 2 amazing young anglers 6 year old Mia Rose (fishing journey) an amazingly talented young lady more than capable of handling carp and sturgeon!! And 8 year old Kai (Junior Carper) they have been showing all us adults how it's done and catching some awesome fish. They do everything themselves from baiting up and casting to playing and landing the fish.

Kai is currently being tested for ADHD and first went fishing at the age of 6 after much deliberation by his dad due to Kai's excitable nature and difficulty focusing at home. However Kai is a completely different lad on the bank, calm, focused, eager to learn and on the rods before his Dad! It is truly amazing to see how fishing changes him, his

mental state and how much they both love being out on the bank!

So many more adults, kids and parents could benefit from the joys and mental health benefits that fishing brings and our aim is to give them that opportunity.

We also believe that if you encourage a young person into a sport like fishing it helps keep them on the banks and off the streets. So, let's help kids get tackled up! Join the Bank Life Fishing family and between us - Lets Do Some Good.

Best wishes and tight lines.
Hannah & Matt Bank Life Fishing



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Ingredients For Success



Top Photo Tips - A Recap.....

by Mark Carper

Picture's courtesy of Oli Davies & Johnathon Blakeley

Way back in June 2019, in Issue 40, I did an interview with Oli Davies of Nash Tackle and during that interview we talked about his Photography and Videography skills and his awesome knowledge that help him produce those magnificent shots we see time and time again both in his own personal Social Media and that on the pages of Nash Tackle and it's not just of the Carp for those 'Trophy Shots' but his eye for those scenic shots too....

...then, in Issue 47, in January 2020, I caught up again with Oli but this time it was specifically about photography, and he gave us his "Quick Guide" to getting the best shot possible, with whatever camera you may happen to have.... In that feature, I used some photographs from a lad I follow on Instagram, Johnathon Blakeley (@johnathon_blakeley). The reason for including his pictures was that Johnathon doesn't have the high-end gear that Oli has, but he has an eye for a picture and all his are Self-Takes too, which shows that what Oli says can

be put in to practice even when you are on your own..!!!

So...as the fishing picks up and the Catch Reports come flooding into us here at Talking Carp, I thought I would re-run that advice from Oli so you can refresh your memory about getting that perfect shot. I for one have not had much of chance this year to get on the bank so not only





are my 'Carping Skills' a little rusty, my photos and certainly my Self-Takes are too! Again, I have included pictures from Johnathon and this time, he has armed himself a nice little 'Drone'...

- **Take your time! Don't rush getting the fish out of the water. Give yourself and the fish time to recover from the excitement of the battle. Make sure you have everything ready, a bucket of water and that your camera is set up BEFORE getting the fish out. This will ensure you have the best chance of getting**

some nice shots. Check your camera – do you have enough battery? Space on the memory card? Is the lens clean!? Sounds obvious but these things rear their heads surprisingly often!

- **Choose a suitable spot for pictures. Make sure it's flat and that the background enhances the capture. Sometimes it's good to see a little of the scene to put the capture in context. A few extra steps out of the swim if necessary, won't harm the fish.**

- **Get help, and extra mats, if necessary, especially with big fish. The more hands on deck to help with goalkeeping and water the better.**
- **Watch out for stray items in the background such as bivvies, rods, rubbish bags, cars, and other distractions. Remove them if possible or reposition the shot. The same goes for trees growing out of the captor's head; try and avoid it as it can look a little strange sometimes. Watch for the shadow you cast as the photographer, particularly**

early morning and at sunset. Nothing ruins a shot quite like an unintentional shadow across the fish so try and angle yourself slightly to prevent this.

- **Take care composing the shot. Ensure you don't cut off bits of the fish or the top of the captor's head. They won't thank you for it. With modern high megapixel cameras, it's easy to crop in a little but its still impossible to put back what wasn't there in the first place!**



- **Hold the camera steady.** If you are shooting with a camera that has an eyepiece use it. It gives an extra point of contact making the camera more stable and less likely to shake. In low light a camera will try and slow the shutter right down so a steady camera will keep your pictures sharper.
- **Take plenty of shots.** It costs nothing, and there is more chance of getting a really good one than just taking one of each

side. It's really frustrating when you have one shot and your eyes are closed or you are gurning. As well as the standard side on shots try a few from different angles. Don't forget to shoot some in portrait orientation. Cover shots need to be portrait – landscape shots simply don't fit!

- **If you can see the horizon in the background, make sure its straight.** Wonky catch pics with badly sloping horizons detract from the overall image. This can easily be fixed after the event IF



there is enough space left round the fish and captor to crop and straighten the image.

- **Light the scene.**

Whether you are shooting with a DSLR or Mobile Phone after dark, the more light the better. It helps your cameras autofocus system, and any background that can be lit will stop you looking like a cut out on a black background.

Headtorches, bivvy lights and light panels all work, but don't totally negate the need for a flash. A separate flashgun will definitely produce better results if you have a DSLR camera.

- **During the day try and avoid dappled light. Choose either full shade or direct sunlight. I'm always looking at how the scene is lit as well as what's in the background – it's equally as important! Occasionally shooting into the sun can be interesting but generally I will shoot with the sun behind me lighting the fish and captor.**

- **FINALLY... Have a quick check of the pictures**

to make sure you are happy before you return the fish. Once it's gone you can't do them again!

Although this is not strictly a guide for taking the dreaded 'Selfie', most of the points can be applied, especially the composition and background. For me, the biggest advantage I found for the self-take,



other than the obvious Tripod, was to use an Intervalometer for my Camera and an App called 'TimerCamera+' from my iPhone 12 Pro.

Both allow me to set how many pictures are taken and at what interval, giving me the opportunity to take plenty of pictures without having to interact with the camera once the shutter release is pressed...But you still need to frame

the shot as Oli has said....

My 'Top-Tip' for you all is one that so many people fail at time and time again and one that could stop you getting that 'Cover Shot'....when you take a picture of your (or even someone else's) prized capture, always, always do a few shots with the framing in '**PORTRAIT**' and not just Landscape....Magazines are not printed in Landscape



and that is why you will see cover shots with the 'Tail Missing' from the Carp...The picture simply does not fit the cover...!!!!

Don't forget you can send your own catch reports and pictures to us at: <https://www.cognitoforms.com/TalkingCarp1/CatchReportForm>

Mark Carper

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Talking Carp



*Emperor, The
Return.....*

by Matt Whalley

So, finally after many weeks away due to COVID and travel restrictions, it was time to head back up to my syndicate water in Devon ~ Emperor Lakes.

I have been chomping at the bit to get back up to this water, but with so many restrictions in place and the fact that I live 2 hours away, it has been pretty tricky but now night fishing is allowed, and travel restrictions removed, it was time to get my prep on.

Prep work

I have been watching the what's app group to see how it's been fishing and although a few carp have been caught, this is by no means, an easy water but they are there to be caught and I was feeling pretty confident about the trip ahead.

A very good friend of mine and a top quality angler gave me some sound advice. The carp seem to move onto older baits, so he advised me to get my baits soaking prior to my session, just to get me that step ahead, from the off.. To be completely honest, this is something that I have never really done before, but any advice/tips were welcome and I most certainly listened.

Mirage Baits, a local company to me in Cornwall sent me their Smell & Re-source boilies along with matching hook baits, CSL glug, stick mix and some very special pop ups and my nephew also sent me some boilies from the Estamarine range at Solution Bait Company.

I started off on day one by putting the boilies into the buckets. This consisted of the Smell & Estamarine at a 50/50 ratio. I then proceeded to cover them in boiling water and left them to soak and soften up for next couple of days. On day three, they were looking perfect. I then added some CSL liquid and matching stick mix for the baits to take on and I shut the lids for the last time before my session. These had to be a winner, washed out, soft and primed ready to go....





The session

I arrived at the lake on the Tuesday mid-morning and although the lake was rather busy, I knew a few people were leaving, later that day. In my head, I had the Woods swim chosen but there was already someone in the Boat swim.

When the boat swim is occupied, Woods is out of bounds, so a new plan was on the cards.

I had a good chat with a couple of the regulars, and they pretty much said to go into the Waterfall swim. I had nothing else really to go on, so some local knowledge, to me was key. I wished the guys good luck and headed off to my swim.

As soon as I walked down to have a look, I spotted a few carp

basking in the spring sunshine. I knew they were here, so now it was time to get the rods ready...

The result

My multi-rigs were already tied and as previously mentioned (special pop ups), they were loaded with Mirage Baits, Tandoori Curry with added Secret Agent Pop Ups. These smelt awesome, popped up perfectly, and pretty much matched the washed out colour of the Smell boilies.

I found a very good clear spot just off to the right hand side of the bar that was out in front of me. As this was the shallower end of the lake, there was a lot of weed present but the clear spot I found, definitely seemed a prime spot. I put out around 30 washed

out bottom baits and presented my rig onto the spot that I had found. Now it was time to sit back, watch the water and hope that the carp would play ball.

At around 6pm, I was then thinking about getting tea sorted when out of the blue, my alarm sounded, and the bobbin pulled up tight. As I was fishing semi locked up due to the weed in the

swim, I didn't hesitate to pick the rod up and sure enough, I was now bent into a carp. I kept a steady pressure on, trying to stop it finding weed beds and this worked. This was my first carp that I was playing since starting my ticket, so I had nothing, but time and I wasn't going to rush this.

After a pretty good fight, I slipped a stunning common into the net. A little sigh of

relief was let out and the pressure was off.

I left the fish to rest while i got everything set up. All of my captures are self takes and I never have the camera or tripod set up now, until a carp is resting in the net. It's strange to think about how many superstitions you pick up in this sport, but once they are in your head, you can't change it.

With everything now



ready, it was time to unhook the carp in the net at the waters edge before transferring it into my Prologic flotation sling for a safe and easy move to the

With the pictures now done, some fish care applied it was now time to release this capture. I let it rest in the sling at the waters edge before I knew it was

ready to go. The zips were opened and with a powerful kick of the tail, it was off. I stood there for a second, feeling very pleased with myself. It's not the biggest of carp that I have caught but this one felt just as good as any PB.

Confidence in a new bait? Without a doubt and now I will be

looking forward to my next session ahead.

Another new water is on the cards, so watch this space for further updates and catch reports.....

Matt Whalley





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Tackle Old to New - My Journey **How it all came about for me,** **discovering tackle**



by Richard Handel

When I first started carp fishing seriously (most weekends and some nights), I was on a garden chair under a brolly trying to stay up as long as possible and sleeping on the ground in an old sail bag that my dad gave me. Then came the plastic sheet wrapped around the brolly and tucked under the brolly spoke to hold it in place. This didn't last long when the wind picked up. Things have changed so much in the chair, bedchair, brolly, bivvy front since 1981 when I started out night fishing.

The original Nash canvas bivvy was a brilliant step forward and kept you warm through the winter months. It was great fun to pack up in the

wet or when a frost was about. It was like folding cardboard. Now look at what you can get, even if you are on a small budget, you can kit yourself out very well. If you're not worried about money, then Aqua products are probably the top of the range, you have so many brands to pick from. The same can be said about bedchairs and chairs. I started out on a garden chair and slept on the floor and progressed to an Argo's sun lounger in bright orange! If you were lucky, you could get a blue one! I use to peg my one to the ground, firstly I would dig grooves in the ground and then peg it down. Why, you ask? Simply because they were a death trap. They would

clamp and fold up on you in the middle of the night and if you were zipped up in your bag, it was pretty hard to get out. A couple of my friends used a piece of wood with a v cut in each end to wedge the legs open, this stopped the folding up, but not the tipping forwards or backward! It was a great laugh fishing in those days.

They were a few more choices on reel front; Mitchell, Cardinals and the odd sea reel. They were no way near as many as there are today. I used the churner method, which was just basically let the reel spin round on the take and grab it hoping to smash your knuckles on the reel handle (if it was spinning very fast).

Today you have the option of bait runner's, fantastic front drag system for a free spool set up. Rods - from fiberglass to carbon fibre. It's been an amazing journey and the development put into carp fishing alone is amazing. We can party thank F1 & Military

based technology companies for passing down the line the breakthroughs and advancements. A little unknown fact about Century Rods is that it's a subdivision of an armoury company in the body armour side of things (and probably more). The distances and

playability of modern rods is such a leap forward.

Once upon time, which is not so long ago, buzzers were a complete dream for me. A few coins balanced on the spool and a tin lid for them to land on, was all we had to wake you up in the middle of the night. Then came the Heron alarms, which at the time, I couldn't afford. But after a while, a few other similar ones arrived. The Optonic was born, but you did need to listen out as they were very quiet, even with the sounder box (which had 2 ft leads), unless you made some up yourself, which generally was all that was happening in that era of fishing. Then





and I broke a few. My worst recollection was 3 broken hooks in the space of a couple of hours, looking back, it was pretty amazing to get any takes in those days. This did me a flavour, as I headed off to the tackle shop and got some much

Dell & Kim arrived with their Optonic conversions by adding a speaker from a telephone, that's an old fashion phone and this changed the fishing world forever. There's a bit more to the Delkim history. It, however, wasn't an overnight revolution, it still took a long time for the fishing industry as we know it today to be born. I should mention that

you could also get Bamford conversions as well. In the early 80's & 90's there were still only a few fishing brands, these started slowly in garages/sheds and then took the world by storm.

Fox, Nash, Delkim, Solar - Some History From what I can remember, the first hooks I used for carp were clearly not man enough for the job

better ones, can't remember what they were and they did bank me a fair few carp, End tackle was pretty simple, size 8 swivel and mono hook links. This was until I discovered Dacron hook links, I started running rigs and then moved on to bolt rigs, which I can't believe didn't kill more carp. This was probably because



the line was so poor quality, I didn't discover hair rigs until about 1984, which is the year my carp fishing completely took over. Previously, I was happy to catch anything even though I was doing nights but in 1984 a group of us headed off to Weybread Pits on the Norfolk Suffolk boarded and that was it. I was completely hooked as they say and still going 35 years later. How

things have changed over the years. It was a slow process and some of the tackle was pretty cheap and rubbish, but the industry learned the hard way and sometimes things just got better. They then started to think what the angler needs and now they have moved onto comfort and well-built products.

When I started

out, you basically used what they call Arlesey bombs, which I thought at the time was a term for a large lead. Little did I know its history. I just remember that it was hard to find big leads and I hadn't thought of sea leads, making my own or even getting a tackle shop to do it. In those days Match/Sea fishing was the thing and tackle shops were not overly interested in carp fishing,



let alone a young sixteen years old trying to buy carp tackle. But now everyone knows someone that makes leads in their shed and there are so many small cottage companies leads making these days. Not really sure which line I started out with, but I soon moved over to Slycast line black & sorrel from what I can remember. I don't remember having

many issues with line, probably due to the lack of carp over 20lbs! I permanently used 8lb line in those days and stepped it up a bit for pike fishing in the winter. Over the years, there has been a dramatic change in line technology, which is brilliant. Back in the 1980's, line diameter was very thick and would reduce casting agility. Today this is one of the key points line companies

are permanently endeavouring to reduce, abrasion is another key area. Clothing back then for me was just your everyday stuff, jeans, cords, a warm coat and wellies. Boy, did I get cold feet! I'm sure I am paying for it now, as whatever I buy my feet are cold. I've tried Skeetex field boots, Baflin boots, all sorts of socks and they just don't cut it, my first ever pair where the Boom 80 Boots.

I mostly where walking clothing these days as underlayer and them a fishing hoodie, as I have yet to find a tackle brand that combats the outdoor conditions better. In their defence, why spend the money on



development when the outdoor clothing company have already invested millions and they can't get it right unless you buy the real top brands. You can't really justify that expense for the short period of time you would wear them e.g. waterproof clothing. I suppose there must be a good brand that I just have not tried, I can't believe the match anglers would sit out in the rain and cold without good kit. Cooking wasn't too bad, as camping was/ is quite popular, but the kit was very chunky, and I used a normal pan to cook with. But we did eat pretty well and none of the

pot noodle rubbish. Modern stoves and cooking equipment is much more compact and a lot lighter, the Ridgemonkey toaster is brilliant and could be used for so much more than toasting sandwiches. I've warmed up baked potatoes, omelettes, chilli, the list is pretty endless, and I am sure most anglers may eat better than they do at

home, but don't tell the wife.

Wheelbarrows, where clearly not an option. I first started out with an old style pram with the baby carriage removed, I then chopped down a barrow and just used the frame. I was quite lucky on one lakes I fished for a few years, I could park behind all the swims. Then



all the swims. Then carp porters arrived, which changed the amount of tackle you could take. The downside of a booming tackle business was more and more tackle started to get stolen, this was a real shame. You need to get your tackle from the car to the swim in one go and for the older or disabled angler's there are even motorized ones, which I am sure I will end up with.

How and why it I started Carp Fishing The moment that I discovered the true power and of course one of the pivotal moments was fishing Llandroed Wells carp lake back in the late 70s. My parents dropped me off there

for the day and went walking for the day. I bagged a few bream and was very happy and then I hooked a carp. I had no idea it was a carp. I had it on a size 16 hook and even the tackle I was using was very old at the time. I had it on for what felt like a lifetime, and I so nearly got it in the net. When I say net it, I'd worked out there was clearly no way it was going in there. So, I did my best to get it in the keep net, but it was not meant to be, and my recollection has faded but I reckon I still could find the swim as I can clearly picture the swim. That day carp were topping everywhere, I can distinctly remember that

and how it changed me. There is another incident that I so nearly caught my first carp that sticks in my mind forever. It was on a farm near Framingham in Suffolk, there were 3 small ponds and used to love fishing on them after the crucian carp. One day, I fancied giving the small one a go, which had one swim and



was surrounded by reeds. I hooked this fish and spent another lifetime getting out of one set of reeds, only for it to charge off into the other set. It then finally shed the hook, without even an attempt to get it in the net. But the seed was sown.

First Carp

Latest Carp

I moved on to other small lakes until I started work and joined GAPS. I took the first week of the session off back in 1981 and by chance had a conversation with someone in an office I had visited. He suggested that why don't I fish the night, I was only ledgering at night

and float fishing in daylight hours and started to enjoy Tench fishing. I did most nights when I could and even made up my own boilie mixture at home. To my amazement I had a few bites that snapped the hook, little did I know at the time these were carp. One particular night, one of the more friendly carp anglers

spent a good two hours talking to me about my fishing and if I tried carp fishing. He explained, firstly I would catch more tench which I loved and secondly there was a good chance of a carp. As I was doing night's it would make sense and so it began.

Until next time

Richard





THE HUNT FOR BIG EARL
by Leigh Leavesley

Earls view fishery is a tranquil intimate water, deep in the heart of the Shropshire countryside. Everything a carp angler could want from a small day ticket water, islands, reed lined margins, bars and plateaus, true peace and harmony with old oak trees, hedge rows and fields of green all around. The only thing to break the silence is the sound of bird song and the spring lambs in the distance, each swim containing loads of features and massive amounts of room especially for a day ticket water, but most importantly big, beautiful carp. All in all, an unbelievably well-run fishery.

I arrived at the fishery Sunday afternoon where I was met with calm conditions, blue clear skies, and sunshine. I loaded my gear on to the barrow and made my way to swim one, this is the only double swim on the lake and has so many options. With all my gear sorted and a few days in front of me, I was in no rush to get the rods out. I sat there and thought about where I was going to position my rods as it is very easy to rush and get these tricky little waters wrong from the start. Small water carp can be some of the trickiest fish to catch as these fish are under pressure all the

time, making them very aware of their surroundings and masters at evading capture. A wrong decision can be the difference between a blank session or a very productive one.

Eventually I decided to fish the first rod to the island, after seeing a couple of fish show tight into the island margin. I knew the carp travel around this island, inches from the bank where they feel safe, feeding here they never encounter anglers' rigs. Fishing close would not be close enough, so with the lead landing inches from the island I knew with a little bit of bounce back and swing from a tight line hitting the clip I would be as tight as I could possibly get. This would still be several feet away from the margin but would be closer than they were used to being fished for. Most people would never dare cast this tight into the island. I also fished a pva stick over the hook point, to stop it catching on the marsh grass on entry. All these little things can make a massive difference when fishing these tricky waters. The second rod was fished in open water to the right of the island, where a bar runs from the island across the lake all the way to the right-hand margin. However, I did not just find the bar and fish to

it, I searched around the front of the bar until I found a harder smoother spot. Looking for these spots normally means you are on an area that the fish are happy to feed on, this is what gives you an advantage over other anglers. Fish will normally drop their guard on spots like these. Time spent finding the right spots is seldom wasted.

Thinking about your fishing will often pay more times than not, rather than just going through the motions and doing the same thing as everyone else. Being different is often the key to success. After finding my spots I decided on fishing a lead clip setup and my favourite combi rig and snowman hook bait. This consists of a 14mm 'Spabaits milky fizz bottom bait' and a 12mm 'Spabaits autumn harvest yellow popup'. I then attached a pva stick of matching milky fizz stick mix; this helps prevent tangles, protects the hook point, and hones the fish in on your hook bait. After positioning the rigs, I then introduced six to ten large spods

of my chosen mix over the top. This was a mixture of hemp, maize, whole and chopped milky fizz boilies and Spabaits spod pellets that had been soaked in 'Spabaits in house cls liquid' and 'hydro liver'.

I then sat back, put the kettle on and enjoyed the last couple of hours of this glorious spring evening taking in the atmosphere and watching the odd carp poke its head through the glassy still water. It was not until the last rays of daylight that my alarm sounded, and I was attached to my first carp of the session. An arm wrenching battle led to slipping the net under a pristine 20lbs plus common. What a great start! After a few photos the rod went back out on the same spot. It was time for bed, and I was



soon in the land of nod. The next thing I remember is being suddenly woken by the sound of a one toner. Still half asleep I lifted into what felt like another nice fish. There is something magical about playing an angry carp in the pitch black. This fish was soon in the net at just under twenty pounds, a beautiful scally mirror was more than welcome. Back to bed, it was a couple of hours later that I received the next take. A spirited more frantic carp, knowing this was a smaller fish by the way it was fighting, it was soon in the net. A stunning low double mirror, one that will be sought after in the future.

The sun rose and dawn chorus began but the weather had changed massively, low pressure, strong winds, hale and rain. A million miles from the sunny calm conditions of the day before. Proper big carp weather and this weather front was due to remain for the next few days.

Later, that morning I was chatting with the owner and as all the other anglers had packed up and were heading home, I had the lake to myself for the next few days. He kindly offered me the option of putting out a third rod as the lake was quiet, obviously I took the

opportunity! I looked for another spot, knowing the open water to the left of the swim does not get fished much. I spent some time finding a spot I was happy with and deployed the third rod with the same tactics as the other two. The rest of the day soon came and went. The second and third night pretty much the same as the first, all the bites coming between last light and dawn, with a total of six fish up to 25 lbs 4oz. I was very pleased with the result. I had had some stunning fish but as I sat there, tea in hand, staring across the lake in the early morning light, with only a couple of hours of my session left I could not help feeling I was close to one of the big fish that inhabited this lake. Maybe even the one I came for, and knowing the lake was only doing night-time bites I just had a feeling I was close, very close.

The phone call was made, permission was granted from my amazing wife, there I was with another night in front of me to see if this feeling I had would materialise into reality. The same pattern continued through the day with nothing happening, but my confidence remained sky high for some more night-time action. All the rods back on the same spots, fresh

hook baits and eight to ten spods over the top. I sat watching the sun go down, contemplating life, like we all do and letting the natural beauty of the great outdoors wash over me. I sat well into darkness, the only sound to break the silence was a boiling kettle and the flutter of the odd passing bat hunting their prey. Suddenly, a bright red flash in the corner of my eye and the sound of the alarm. My heart skipped a beat, it's a feeling you just can't explain as you pick up that rod and you are attached to a hard fighting carp somewhere in the darkness. That fish was soon resting in the bottom of the net, another twenty plus. Rod was buzzed back out to the spot, no sooner had I done the photographs

and slipped the fish back the same rod was away again! This fish came straight towards me and on first impression it did not feel that big but once in close it began to plod slowly, staying deep, up, and down the margin for what felt like forever. Never surfacing once, just staying deep, the longer this went on the bigger the fish began to grow in my mind and after fifteen possibly twenty minutes I caught the first glimpse of the fish. A big plain flank, in my mind I knew it was a decent fish, **but could it be? No**, I thought it can't! One more big swirl then up it popped, as I guided the fish over the net cord a gasp of relief as both of us were tired from that battle.

I gathered myself for a few seconds then picked the net up whilst staring inside and as the fish rose in the water safely in the rolls of the landing net, the silence was broken as I let out a loud sharp



YES BIG EARL! This long, wide, sparsely scaled, immaculate fighting machine of a carp, **KING OF THE POND!** What a creature I couldn't quite believe it, the feeling I had all day and now there he was, in the net! What a moment! Times are like these are why we do what we do. It's like a drug, they don't come around too often but I could spend my whole life chasing a handful. On the scales he went 38lb on the button and a new lake record to boot. With the moment of madness over, photos done and having slipped my target fish back into the lake, I sat in the pitch black taking in the atmosphere.

On reflection, this was my second ever visit to Earls View, ten fish previously, just before Christmas and now eight. Earls View had been very kind to me. The morning soon came around with no more

action and an early pack up. That was it, session over. But one that will live with me forever!

In summary put the effort in, think outside the box and moments like these can and will happen. The hunt for big Earl is over but what a place, what a memory. Now onto the next target and until next time, thanks for reading

“YES, BIG EARL”

All the best

Leigh





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FISHING FOR THROMBOSIS



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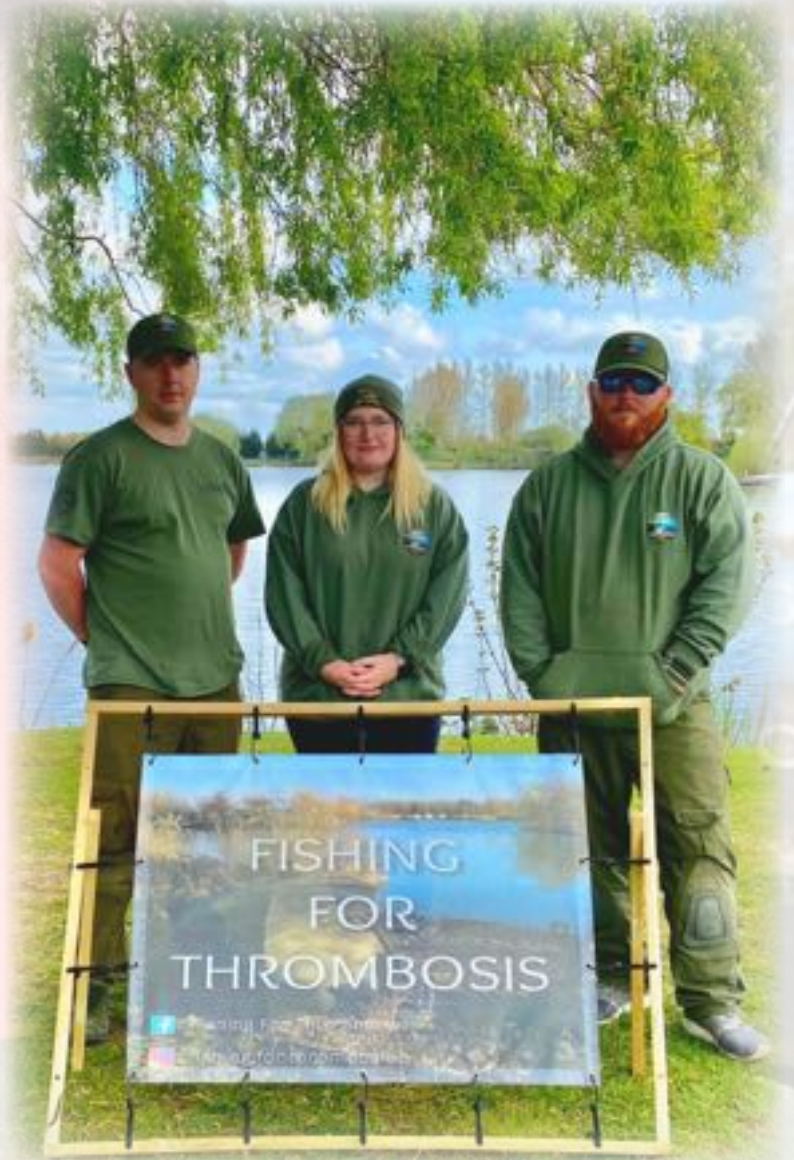
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**Fishing For Thrombosis
Cromwell Lakes Event
By Will Jebson**

We set up this charity fundraising page on Facebook and Instagram called 'FISHING FOR THROMBOSIS', the aim of the page is to raise funds and awareness for Thrombosis UK. We did this in memory of our Mum Karen. Unbeknown to Mum she had DVT (deep vein Thrombosis) which caused a Pulmonary Embolism (PE), devastatingly PE claimed our mum's life without warning at no age of just 53 years old. Mum was a keen angler during our youth, and we have her to thank for our love of the sport, she was also the charity champion for her place of work which she also thoroughly enjoyed doing. We wanted to try and make a difference and what better way than to combine two things Mum enjoyed doing hence the page.

Along with the help of both my brother Matty and sister Alice we have managed to hold several raffles and also just hosted our Second charity carp fishing match at Cromwell Lakes.

With the pandemic situation beginning to ease we were thankful that this time round we could go ahead as planned. Due to certain restrictions still being in place and for people's peace of mind, we took the decision to hold an online peg draw a few days early live on our page. This we believe added to the experience, banter and camaraderie of all anglers involved some of whom had never met before.



The draw was as follows.

- Jason Callaghan
- Dean Kozlowski
- Phillip (PIP) Turrell
- Will Jebson
- Christopher Fewkes
- Peter Ziska
- Spare
- Craig Greatorex
- Roy Buckley
- Ian Cox
- Andy Lill
- Billy Mezo
- Lee (UPPY) Upstone
- Andy Marsh (last year's winner)
- Matthew Thraves
- Martin Davis
- Luke Nolan
- Andy Berry

Cabin peg) Matty Jebson

The morning of the Friday 23rd we all arrived at the venue, Cromwell lakes in Newark. With the draw already complete anglers were free to grab a cuppa, get tackle ready and view their water from arrival. Site rules state fishing from 9am so this was the time to start the event.





With changeable weather conditions coming into this event, it was always going to be difficult to dig out a bite or two between us in the early stages. No fish on the bank on the first day left all anglers scratching their heads.

Waking to a frosty bivvy after personally suffering significant sun burn on the opening day just summed up how much conditions differed. On the Saturday, the warm weather and change in wind direction seemed to have brought the lake to life. Hearing there had been a few fish lost from pegs 15 and 16 early doors the day was looking up, as I'm watching the water I see Roy Buckley (peg 9) playing a fish!! This turned out to be the biggest catfish in the lake of between 90LB – 100LB!! Unfortunately, the monster moggy had foul hooked itself on Roy's Zig. GUTTED for him.

Come the Social BBQ everyone's efforts had proven fruitless....

Little over an hour passed following the social I get the call to say a fish had been caught, AND WHAT A FISH TOO.....

Andy Berry in peg 18 had just landed not only the first fish of the event at 31LB 8oz but a new personal best to boot!! He video called me from his bivvy shortly after releasing it with a massive smile on his face, couldn't have been happier for him.

Soon after my middle rod was away while making a brew, I leaped into action only to see a tufty pop up on my spot. Gutted at being done by bird life in 14ft of water, I reset that rod and sat back. No other action around the lake leading into the last night, apart from witnessing a carp porpoise 4ft from the rods of the bait guru that is Jason Callaghan (peg1) they seemed to be taunting us.

At first light on last morning, I get a call from my brother Matt in the cabin peg. He had just landed the second carp of the event, at 20LB 4oz it wasn't one of the big girls by far, but it would take second prize and make for a better presentation but.....

Shortly after Matt had slipped his fish back, Mr Berry was at it again!! With a 21LB 4oz zip linear, moving into pole position for second biggest carp along with biggest carp and biggest total weight.



An hour of the event remaining Dean "the pond pig" Kozlowski was in, would it be a last minute winner? Unfortunately, not, in fact it could possibly be one of the

smallest “stockies”. Although it was only around 8LB it has to be one of the best looking fish in the lake, absolute stunner.

To go from one fish and the prospect of an awkward presentation, to four fish caught during tough conditions is testament to the lads taking part.

On to the presentation then,

All prizes kindly donated by Nutrabaits.....

Biggest total weight prize consisted of a complete bundle of the newly released CO-DE range, a fantastic and revolutionary bait including 5kg of boilie, 5kg, pellet, all liquids associated with CO-DE and one of each of the new topper oils.

Biggest carp caught & second biggest carp caught both received a considerable bait bundle prize consisting of a variety different boilies, pellets, liquids and also a full selection of the never been done before topper oils.

Biggest Total Weight Winner: Andy Berry

Biggest Carp Caught Winner: Andy Berry



2nd Biggest Carp Caught Winner: Andy Berry

A clean Sweep for Andy Berry, superb angling and congratulations.

With huge thanks to all anglers for taking part and supporting Thrombosis UK.

Event sponsors, Nutrabaits we thank you unreservedly for your continued support in the form of prizes for these events.

To our host Cromwell Lakes, a massive thanks for your hospitality & your generous contribution towards lake fees.

Head over to the Fishing for Thrombosis Facebook and Instagram for future raffles and events.

We thank you all for your support,

Will Jebson



[fishing.forthrom](#)

TalkingCarp.

My Journey So Far



by Declan Priestley

Hi, my name is Declan Priestley, I am 18 years old. I am A dedicated and hardworking angler, who's always on the banks catching consistently. Ever since being A child, I have always had the passion towards angling. I have grown up learning and trying different techniques to get the amazing fish I catch. A lot of time and effort goes towards catching, as I make sure everything is at A high standard, which then I am rewarded with these stunning fish. I am now at the stage of my fishing where I am testing bait for Urban Baits, it's an amazing company. They are giving me opportunities which will hopefully lead to A successful career in the angling industry.

I started fishing a place called moss farm

fishery's in Manchester. I had wanted to fish it for a while, but as I was young at the time, I was unable to join. So, when I final was 18 my brother spoke to the owner Alan at Moss Farm fisheries if I could join. I was excited when I got the call to say there is A place for me. After I joined the lake, I fished it about 3 months or so, going on Friday till Sunday and I was catching these pristine carp every time I went on, 20lb+ fish regularly.

All I was doing to get around these big carp was finding a nice spot for 3 rods. it is A very weedy lake, but I found them fairly quick. After I found my 3 spots, I was sat there thinking to myself, what rig would be best suited for the spots I found. I decided to start with one Ronnie rig with A size 4 curve shank micro barbed hook with A semi stiff boom. I made sure



my rigs were long, only because I knew it was weedy out there and you do get floating weed. And that was my first rod with a bright yellow pop up from Urban Baits. I had all 3 of my rods on A tight spot which was hard work due to other lines being took out, but it worked for me. This is the set up i stuck with as I was confident in it. I got to the stage where I was getting double takes and triple

takes at times after working hard on my spots.

After I managed over 20 fish out, the owner Alan put on the group page the first 30lb fish that gets caught will get free fishing for a whole year. I said to myself, I'm going to put as much time and effort in as possible to catch the first 30lb from the lake. After a few more sessions went by, trying different

swims and moving to follow the fish, i hooked into one that felt different from the rest. After a long battle, fighting with the carp and the weed, I netted the fish. I looked into my landing net, and I said to myself "this is a 30lb!!!!!!" So, I unhooked it got a lad on the next peg to come check this fish out as a whiteness. And he said the same "wow what a unit of a fish" so we got it on the



mat, tripod out, scales out and she went 30lb 8oz. I was so happy with this fish. I told the owner Alan he came down spoke to the lads and then said to me “you now have free fishing for the year”. I was ecstatic with this fish, and I also got to name the fish, so I called it “Decker” the big common in the lake.

Ever since I got the free fishing, I’ve spent a lot of time on there, learning all the time. On Moss Farm, there are A few named fish. They are called nemo, scarlet, paw print so i have fish to target, not just catch random ones. After months of working hard and putting hundreds of hours in, I did manage these fish. What a time I had on the lovely complex. I had nemo at 28lb

Scarlet at 28lb

Paw print 18lb

Then Decker, the unknown one, I had which I named and was 30lb 8oz

So, these where all the fish I wanted, and I manged these whilst I was catching many other fish. I did get another special carp, A 29lb 14oz common, 2oz from 30lb. At the right time of year, Moss Farm will have 2 known 30lb carp in there with the rest of the carp piling on the weight. Goes to show, we put quality bait in, and the fish will only go bigger. Let’s see where my journey takes me next,
Declan.



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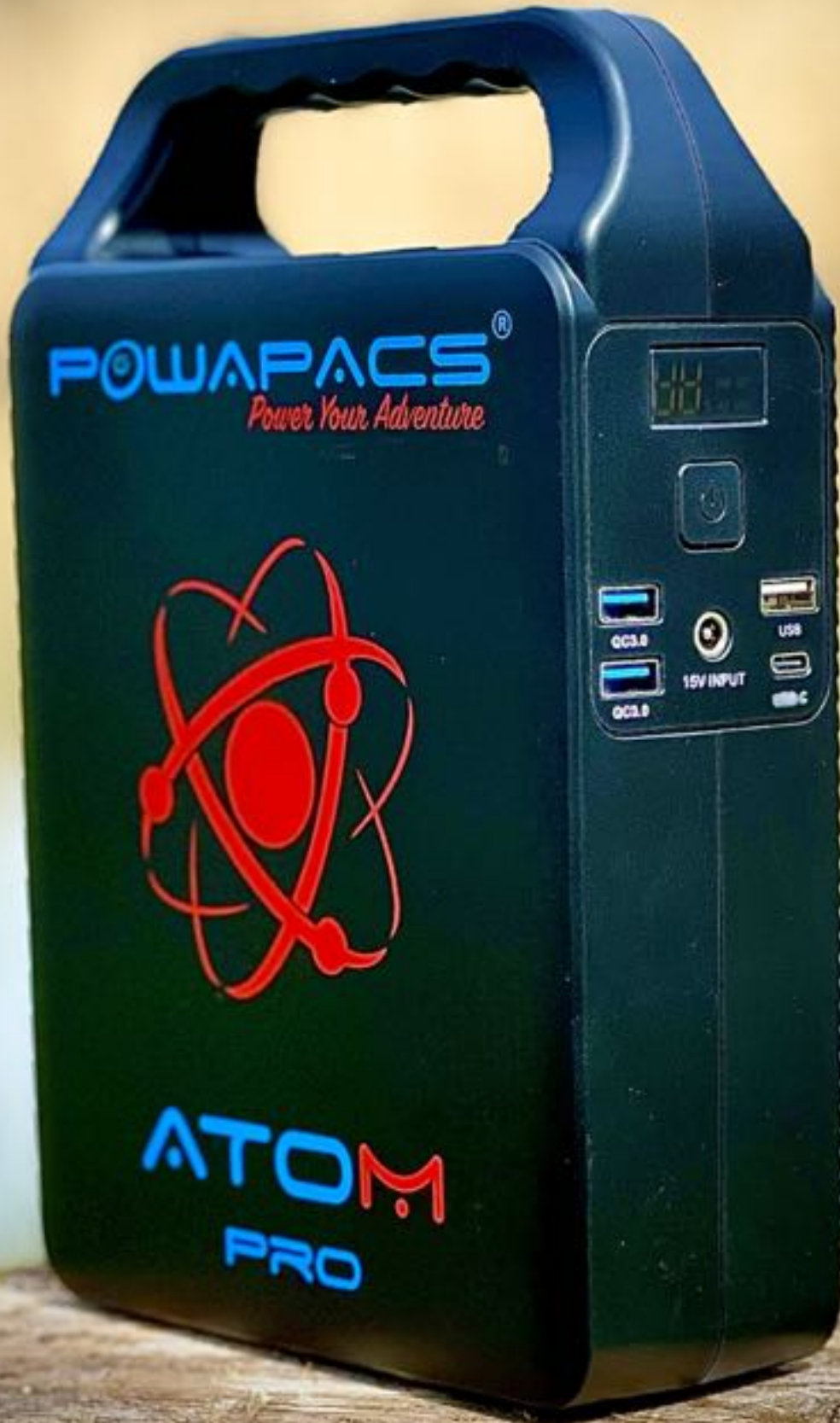


Reviews

Featuring -

Powapacs Atom Pro - Mark Carper
Sunblesa Head Torch - Mark Carper
Candlelight Carping - Brian Dixon
Access 2 Angling - Anthony Woods
Adventure Lights - Anthony Woods

ATOM PRO



by Mark Carper

In August 2019, I took possession of an PowaPacs Atom and in our October Issue 44, I did a comprehensive review after thoroughly testing the unit over several trips, including a week in France on Public Waters, so 'proper' Off Grid use....Well, in April 2021, I decided to part company with the unit for a better one.....

...and that was for the "Second Generation" of the ATOM family, a 78,000mAh 312Wh 'Atom Pro' Power Pack with an awesome 26Ah @12v, which may not mean much to you at this stage, but believe me, this is one powerful and long lasting unit...!!!

The PowaPacs Atom unit is described on the web site as;

The Atom Pro is the second generation of portable power stations from Powapacs. The integrated Lithium-Ion battery makes the Atom Pro a compact power station weighing just 2kg, allowing almost all electrical devices up to 150 watts to be run from it. With a battery capacity of 312Wh and a range of 6 outputs, the Atom Pro is suitable for charging smartphones, tablets, laptops, drones, lighting and other equipment. It is the "must have" mobile power solution for your holiday at the campsite, the fishing lake or during a survival holiday.



My previous review was in no way and advert for the unit but was my honest opinion after using the unit for a few months, and this one is no different, although it has not been tested out on the Bank as I simply have not had the chance to head off to Europe...!

I would add that I purchased the unit direct from the company and this was not given to me specifically to review, and I have no links or affiliation to the company.

In all honesty, I could simply copy the last review with a few 'Unit Updates' as the ATOM PRO, is every bit as good as the first ATOM but with a few little additions to the package...

The first notable addition is that the USB Outputs have dramatically changed. The unit now has the following:

- 1 x Standard USB Port
- 2 x Quick Charge 3.0 USB ports
- 1 x USB-C Port

All of which means 'Faster Charging' of the devices capable of accepting the output from the PRO, which includes numerous Phones and Tablets, Laptops and Battery Charging Devices for Drones, Cameras and all manner of other equipment.



The way the in-built LED Torch operates has also changed, which means the light cannot be 'accidentally' switched on, which I did find was an issue on the original unit and the LED Real-Time Display, which shows the Battery Level, Input and Output Modes now has an 'Auto-Off' function, making the unit even more long lasting and stops the display becoming an 'annoying' light inside the Bivvy...! (Although I never found it an issue on the previous version, but some did.!)

The PRO still has the 12v 10Amp DC Output (Cigarette Lighter Style) and a 230vAC Output with a constant 150watt power capability and 200watts of peak power, which is suitable for items with a UK or Euro Plug fitted, allowing you to run almost all electrical devices up to 150 watts...which incidentally would include an Oscillating 'Desk Fan', meaning you can have a proper fan in your bivvy and not one of those little fans that are being sold by tackle companies as 'Bivvy Accessories'..!

As you would expect, the unit still has numerous levels of protection, including, Overload, Voltage and Temperature along with Short circuit and Low Voltage too and the whole thing weighs in at just 2.1kg and is supplied as before with a very robust 'Carry Case'.

The unit can still be charged in one of three ways which are, Mains Supply, Solar Panel or via a 12-24V car adaptor.

It really is the Power House of Bankside Power Supplies and offers true 'Off grid' sustainable power for all you gear and I have used the unit to charge numerous items of my gear, including iPhone, iPad and Keyboard, Camera Batteries, Go-Pro Batteries, Bivvy Light, Head Torch, 3-Axis 'Gimble', Deeper Pro+ and my high power Li-ion Bait Boat Battery, along with the Handset Batteries and iPad Mini (used to view the Raymarine Sonar from the Bait Boat)



As per my original review back in 2019, I'm not going to go into great detail of the charge times and percentages as everyone has different equipment and usage needs of that equipment but I have used the unit, albeit at home, to charge my iPhone, iPad, Bait Boat Batteries and even the Batteries for my Nash Power Barrow, without issue.

The unit retains its' charge with great success, and I can honestly say that the last time I charged the Atom Pro was three ago and it was showing 42%. I then used the Mains Charger to bring it back to 100% and it has sat on a shelf ever since. On writing this review, I pressed the button, and it was showing 100% still...!!

I described the First-Generation ATOM as "Awesome", and my opinion has not changed at all.

Admittedly, there are numerous Power Banks being sold, from ones built in to in Bait Buckets to small Units that can fit in your pocket and I guess they all "do the job" and this review was never intended to be a comparison between them all but if you are in the market for your first Power Bank, or are looking to



upgrade to something that will give you power for a longer trip perhaps, then the PowaPacs Atom Pro should definitely be top of your list. The Build Quality, Power Output, Battery Life and Flexibility are all first class, and the unit will serve you well.

Check out their web site for full details on both the 60,000mAh and the 78,000mAh units and the other accessories they provide and if you have any questions, they are very responsive to both email and their Facebook Messenger too.

www.powapacs.co.uk

In next month's issue, I will review the smaller PowaPacs ION Power Pack...another top-quality bit of kit...!

Mark Carper

Instagram: mark_carper257



*****Sunblesa Head Torch – H11*****
by Mark Carper



Sunblesa

For the first time in Talking Carp Magazine, we have included a Video Review to a product that has been tested and trialled by us. The video is just an overview of how the Sunblesa Head Torch works and demonstrates some of the functions, it is not a technical review (it's not even that professional HaHaHa). Written below is a full account of the Head Torch including the Technical Information including all the features and how the unit performed under testing. Testing was completed over a twelve-week period by me. You can view the video on my Instagram IGTV by clicking this link;

https://www.instagram.com/tv/CPB3vdKFtcQ/?utm_medium=copy_link

Note: You will hear that I call the Unit the "M11" and not the correct "H11"....!

First, they gave us their 'Bivvy Light', then we had the 'Bivvy Light Mk2' and both offerings from Sunblesa were and still are excellent in both quality and price...!

Way back in October 2019, in issue 44, I did a review on the Mk2 Bivvy Light, and I still use the exact same unit today and it's has never once failed me....

...With talk of releasing a Head Torch, I was keen to get involved and do some testing but then we had a little thing called Covid-19, which delayed things somewhat.



During the wait, Sunblesa released a good quality 'Magnetic Bivvy Tray' and a very nice 'Rig Rack'...but 12 weeks ago, I received the new H11, the much-anticipated Sunblesa Head Torch and I started to put it through its' paces...and I am very impressed with the whole package. In fact, I cannot fault it at all...!

Releasing here in the UK within the next two weeks there will be two versions of the torch, but the only real difference is that one will come supplied in its own zipped 'Clamshell Hard Case' and the other will just be boxed.

The price range is expected to be between £19.99 and £22.99, which makes this an excellent price given the features this Head Torch has.

Safety

The first thing you notice, is the size and weight as it is incredibly compact and light and so comfortable to wear, you could probably sleep with it on?! The second thing you notice, is you can't switch it on...!!!

But don't worry, this is not a fault, this is the clever 'Safety Lock' on the switch so there is no way the Torch can be turned on 'Accidentally', even when it is packed in your bag or pocket.



Unlocking is a simple process of depressing both buttons for three seconds and then the same to re-lock...a very simple but very effective feature.

That said, the Buttons are flush to the housing so even if placed loose in a bag, it is unlikely to accidentally activate, unlike those head torches that have the button 'proud' of the housing.

Light Modes

With a CREE XP-G3, High Lumen LED used for the 'White Light' you get up to 365 Lumens, which puts it in the 'Mid-Range' of Brightness for Head Torches but gives you more than enough light on the Bank, in fact, I doubt I would ever use it on the highest output to be honest.

The White Light has four brightness setting with the 'Max' setting automatically switching down to the High setting after thirty seconds to stop the unit from over-heating.

The White Light is complemented by two other LED Lights also, one being GREEN with one brightness level and the other being RED but with two brightness levels...the brightness from these LEDs is more than adequate and this can be seen towards the end of the Video Review mentioned earlier.



Note: There is also a 'Strobe' & SOS Setting in both the White Light and the Red/Green Light. I have not gone into detail on these, but they did work as expected. I suppose this could be useful for signalling to the "Carp Gods" in times of need...!!!!

Light Setting Memory

This is the feature I like the best, as there is nothing worse than having to 'Click Through' to get back to the setting you last used...a serious fault I feel on some Head Torches out there.

Whatever Brightness Setting or Colour the Torch is turned OFF at, it will return to that Setting when it is turned back ON...even if it is a month later (it may well retain the memory for longer than that, but I tried it after four weeks). This is a really great feature as it means if I am using the Red or Green light, I can return straight back to it without the need to use the White light and therefore I can preserve my 'Night Vision' for longer.

Size & Weight

As I have already mentioned, this Head Torch is extremely lightweight and including the strap it weighs in at only 47g (1.66oz), which is half the weight of some of the others out there and certainly the lightest I have ever used and this is very noticeable when you are wearing it and due to the low profile of the torch, it doesn't 'bounce' around on your forehead as others do either.

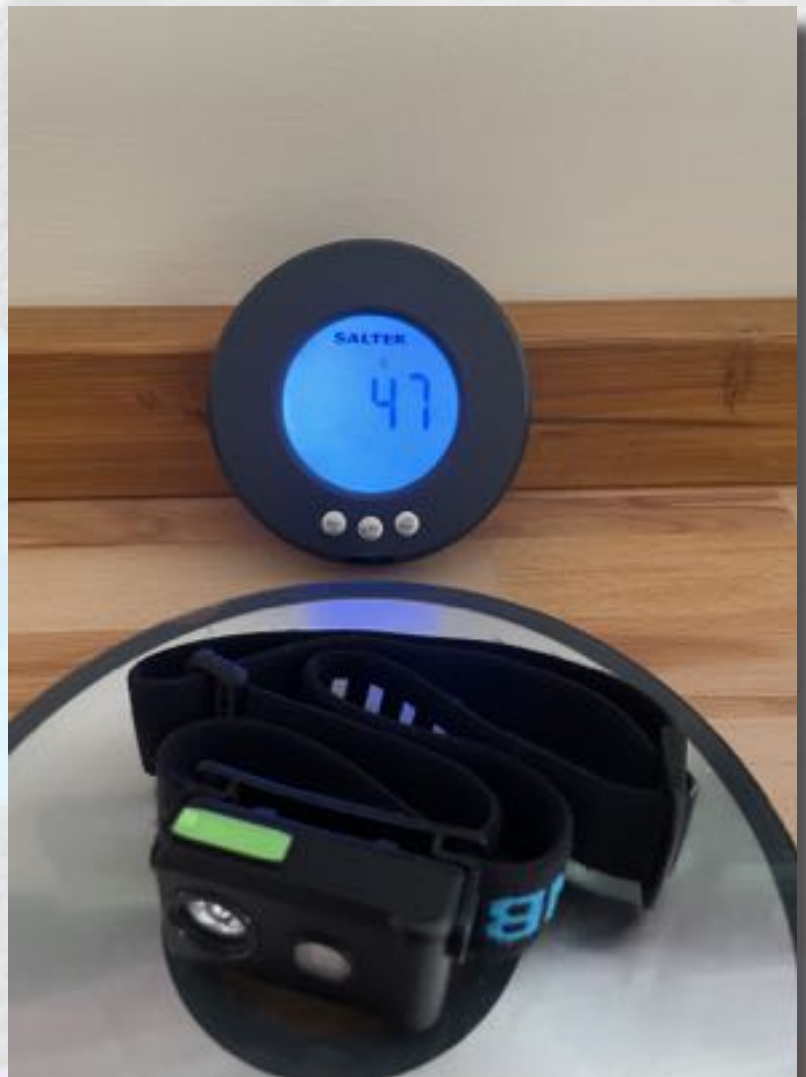


In terms of physical size, it is minuscule and comes in at 5cm wide, 3cm High and only 1.3cm in depth (2cm including the bracket) ...Like I said, it is tiny, and this is the reason the Highest White Setting is time limited as the housing leaves little room for cooling...!!

Another point to note is the strap has a great range of adjustment and allows for fitting to a small head...I mention that as another head torch I have used, does not adjust small enough to fit the averaged sized head of my 18 year old son nor does it fit the head of my 29 year old friend... clearly both have smaller heads than me but the 'Sunblesa' has enough adjustment to fit them comfortably and has 'Rubber Grip strips' on the band too.

Power and Runtime

All this is powered by a High-Capacity USB Rechargeable Battery and will power the light at the lowest White Setting for up to 200 hours and on the High White for around 5 hours which in practice is more than ample, in fact, I used the torch for a whole week as If I was "in the Bivvy" and the battery was still going strong without the need to recharge it. Obviously, I only used it as and when required as a Head Torch and not as a 'Bivvy Light' and only used the Max setting for the thirty seconds each day...?!!



Quoted Runtimes are as follows;

White Light	Low 2 Lumens	Medium 38 Lumens	High 190 Lumens	Max 365 Lumens
Run Time Hours	200	20	5	40 (Minutes)
High Red Run Time Hours				8
High Green Run Time Hours				11

Charging

Charge time from 'dead' is approximately two hours via the supplied USB Cable. The Torch will show you when it requires charging by a small red light underneath the power switches. The torch will also show you how 'Full' the battery is by simply depressing the Colour Selection Switch for three seconds.

Weather-Proofness

During my testing of the Head Torch, I purposely left it (minus the strap) outside for five days in the rain and in May, we had some rain...!!!

Every day I would check the unit and then use it during the evening, and it never missed a beat. Although it is not 'submersible' it will certainly handle the British Weather...!!

Conclusion

Having owned lots of different Head Torches over the years from high-end Petzle to LED Lenser when I was Mountaineering to many of the 'Fishing Brand' ones available today, I have no complaints about the SUNBLESA H11. Okay, it might not be the Brightest or have the longest Battery Life on Maximum Output but what it does do, it does extremely well and for a very good price too.



Having tested and used all the Sunblesa products that they have aimed squarely at the Fishing Industry, I have come to expect a high quality and feature packed product at a very reasonable price and this latest offering is no exception....It is feature packed, offers plenty of lighting options, stands up the weather and is comfortable and easy to use...it's has definitely got a firm position in my tackle bag, alongside the Bivvy Light, Rig Tray and Rig Holder....!

Tech Details

Model: Sunblesa H11

Power Source: 700mAh Li-Ion Polymer Rechargeable Battery

Lighting Period: Up to 200 Hours dependant on setting

IP Rating: IP54

Product size: 50*30*13mm

Weight: 47g including Strap

Lighting Modes: 5 Lighting Modes

Charging Time: 2 Hours

Mark Carper - Instagram @mark_carper257

Talking Carp - Instagram @talkingcarp.magazine

#talkingcarpmagazine





Candlelight Carping By Brian Dixon



If there is one part of our sport that is a great leveller when it comes to nature being back in full bloom after the Winter and cold Spring... it's the summer insect onslaught! They have no bias when it comes to feasting on anglers.... Day ticket waters, private syndicates, up north or deep in the heart of Essex... if you are near water, and the sun has come out after a rainfall or two... then the chances are you're about to be under attack from those pesky little midges and mozzies. And let's face it... there is nothing more annoying! Or painful!

Which is where Mark Wallis comes in with the Candlelight Carping pineapple flavoured citronella candles.

Whilst the idea is far from new, and there are many variations of scented candles on the market, Mark decided that a lot of these just did not come up to scratch and took it upon himself to source the very best possible oils and ingredients and make his own, adding a lovely little twist with the pineapple scent!!

After a few attempts and finally happy with the end product Candlelight Carping was born... and demand has been very very high. So much so, his first batch were sold out before production had



even been completed. Such is the demand for a quality citronella candle. The product itself is extremely well packaged, beautifully labelled, each candle comes in its own metal tin, a tight fitting lid and a double wick system. The correct warnings and burning instructions are inside the lid, and it smells delicious!

First impressions are good, very good... The reviews are already rolling in and we can see this being this years "must have" accessory, and we have already ordered 4 more (so watch out for a future giveaway coming soon) The retail will be £12 plus p+p and to me that's worth every penny to make sure I don't come home looking like the elephant man!!

In the meantime, you can contact Mark directly by clicking this link at <https://www.facebook.com/mark.wallis.144>



Access 2 Angling UK

By Anthony Wood

Hybrid Lead Clips
5 Pack



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Wide Gape hooks
10 pack



size: 8

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Slow Sinking Double
Corn
12 Pieces



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products visit



You may remember a while back I did an article on South Wales Fishing Society, well, three of the committee members decided to strike out and create Access 2 Angling UK during the lockdown.

The initial idea was to get tackle and bait companies together who would offer a discount to followers of the Access 2 Angling UK brand. This worked okay to start with and a couple of fisheries got on board as well as a terminal tackle company and a tackle shop.

However, when full lockdown arrived, the concept was reconsidered and the three owners decided that not only would they have the discount list but that they wanted to go further than that and create their own product range with the ethos of "Quality with Affordability".

The last straw came when they started seeing a kg of boilies for over £15, they decided that they wanted to fight the "carp tax" and create a range of baits and tackle that were affordable but still of a high quality. Starting with a few smokes and bait boosters such as their exploding plum or fishy as f**k.

After this they created their Strawberry Milkshake range which includes 14mm pop ups, bait booster, glug and 12mm or 16mm boilies. The

boilies have been designed on a high quality balanced nutritional base of refined milk proteins, a combination of seeds and pulses and nuts giving an attractive yet nutritional boilie that the carp seek out all year round and has produced some superb carp for the brands testers.



Although nothing to do with the fishing club a lot of the fishing club members have been using the strawberry boilies and the smokes from Access 2 Angling UK on the Pluck which is one of the club waters with great success.

The next step in their plan was to source suppliers for high quality yet affordable end tackle and they soon started adding some hooks, anti-tangle sleeves, lead clip and tail rubbers, hook beads and slow sinking double fake corn were added to their range.

When I wrote this they were looking for a few more promotional team members so it may be worth getting in touch with them and seeing if there are any slots still available. You could try emailing them at: info@access2angling.co.uk



I've been making my own boilies for at least 30 years (www.facebook.com/homemadeboilies) and I can see these are well constructed boilies with a good amount of texture to both soak up the bait booster but also release all the attractors and goodies around your hook as it is in the water. The hooks are sharp and strong and the rest of the terminal tackle has that quality feel to it as well.

I'm really looking forward to seeing what else this new and up and coming company is going to bring to our wonderful sport/hobby. Why not give them a follow yourself on either Facebook or Instagram and keep an eye on their website for more new product releases as they happen.

Website: www.access2angling.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Access2AnglingUK

Instagram: www.instagram.com/access2anglinguk





Adventure Lights By Anthony Wood



Adventure lights are a Canadian brand that I came across last year and what actually caught my attention was their boast that you could drive a car over one of their lights and it would still work and look as good as before you drove over it. They were that confident of the strength and quality of their lights, of course I had to try so here is my TikTok of me driving my LandRover over one lol (<https://vm.tiktok.com/ZMenw1qY2/>).

Although I use several of their lights for things other than fishing there are a few in their range that have migrated their way over to my fishing purely because of how useful they have ended up being, even if they were designed for something else.

The first product from their range which I find really useful is their AL20R 1180 Lumens rechargeable torch. This really is an amazing torch for the money \$138 CAD (About £80) and has the usual low, medium, high, SOS and strobe settings but it also has an ultra low setting which is absolutely brilliant for when you are walking round your swim without wanting to light up the entire area.

The AL20R is also waterproof, usb rechargeable and (and I love this feature) it can be used as an emergency powerbank itself using the included adaptor that fits into the charging port on the side. That means if your phone or camera runs out of battery you can plug it into your torch and charge your device!!



The second of the Adventure Lights range that I have migrated into my fishing is the Guardian™ Dog Signal and Safety LED Light. This is the light that I ran over in my LandRover and at only \$17.99 CAD (about £10.50) I can't believe I can drive my 4x4 over it and it survive!!

There are a few uses for the Guardian™ Dog Signal the first of which is to help you see where the end of your rod rest is by using the Velcro strap to wrap it around your pod and then twist to turn it on and you will get a gentle flashing that will last for an incredible 250 hours, the Velcro strap is small but has enough length to fit around rods, landing net poles, etc. It also comes with a belt clip which enables you to attach it to the front of your bivvy or other material. If you flip the battery over you get a constant light rather than flashing if you prefer a constant source of light.

You aren't going to get a huge light source like you would with their torch but you will have enough light to be able to see where your equipment is, no more tripping over your bags, etc if you've marked where they are with one of these!! The other great thing about these lights is that they are waterproof to 100m so you don't have to worry about dropping them in the water, the light can also be seen from up to 3 miles away is drop proof and can be used in temperatures down to -20 or up to 60.

Although a Canadian company you can find these in several places in the UK, I got mine from www.springfields.co.uk



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Catch Reports

Featuring -

D.T. Baits
Vader Baits

Plus all of your catches !!!

Ross Sinnott



One of the new A listers to Llewellyn lake called Ryan at 29lb 2oz caught on a slipped D rig using rig it tackle curve shank hooks with a signature squid waffer

Caught fishing off a drop off near an island using a German rig with Rig It tackle curve shank hooks caught using a DNA S7 Dumbbell waffer



Steve Cartwright



Huntingdon Racecourse Lakes - Heron Lake

CarpTackleonline end tackle and Keybaitsolutions ASM , couple of lovely mirrors , the scaley on was a cracker.

Steve Cartwright



First two fish from new Syndicate, both Linears, 18.8 & 22lb ,
using Carptackleonline rig components with the deadly Scorpion
Crank hooks , taken on KeyBaitsolutions ASM Boilies

Alan Beacher



Check this battle scarred canal warrior out, weighing in at 15lb 12oz. Falling to Rod Hutchinsons Fruit Frenzy 15mm pop up. Incredible Tackle Lockdown Beaked size 6 hook on a Ronnie rig not letting me down once again.



Check out this early morning wake up call, this stunning canal mirror carp weighing in at 16lb 6oz falling to the Rod Hutchinsons Fruit Frenzy popups once again, also the Incredible Tackle Lockdown hooks doing the business. Well chuffed with this fish from my local canal.

Matthew Saunders



Burton Farm
Fishery
– Burton
Hastings

Matthew
Saunders
braved a
cold 24-hour
session with
his pal, Tyler,
on the newly
revamped
Course Lake,
Kingfisher,

Fishing to the island using a size 10, IQ D Rig, and presenting a Sticky Baits 'Orange Waffer' over a handful of Fishery Pellets, he tempted this perfect condition 20lb Common at just after midnight...!

Their first session and in anything but ideal conditions but the lads landed eleven Carp between them with this twenty being the biggest of the bunch and are buzzing for a return trip.

Catching his fair share of the Carp too, Tyler Hill did his mate the honours and took a great 'Night Shot' picture for him...!

I spoke with Jo Callington, the Fishery Owner who told me the new Kingfisher Lake, which is two lakes now made in to one with a large island and some nice features is settling in well and although the weather has played a major part in keeping the fishing slow, the Carp are definitely now on the move. Although better known for its General Course and Match Angling on its other lakes, Kingfisher holds Carp to 25lb and they are in excellent condition, with plenty of fight in them...!!

The lake is open for both Day Sessions and twenty-four hour or longer sessions and all the information can be found on their Facebook Page 'Burton Farm Fishery' or their website, <https://www.burtonfarmfishery.co.uk/>

Mark Carper

Instagram: @mark-carper257 / @talkingcarp.magazine

Barrie Scholes



After plugging away through a difficult winter persistence finally paid off in spectacular style with this 27lb 8oz carp. It came at 2am on a Nash Scopex Squid cultured hookbait fished over half a kilo of Scopex Squid freebies. It's my first fish from the lake and a new personal best.

About 3:40am my right hand rod ripped into life as soon as i hooked into the fish i knew he was a warrior taking me to the left and right of the swim through some snags down the margin i finally managed to land a low 20 old banger 21lb14oz to be precise this has far been my best capture to date

Nailed on a size 6 scorpion wide gape and using the CTO pro hooklink in silt colour from the carptackleonline range feel free to check out the amazing products

Jarred Howard



Karl Brandreth



After being furloughed again I took advantage of the time and decide to get a mid week session in.

And after a very cold 3 days I ended up with 5 and lost one only small ones but the 2 I caught were mid double mirror and a common but more than welcome.

All caught on Wolf gear and Rig-it tackle end gear.



Dave Tozer



Dave Tozer has Just done 72hrs on Sandhurst lake as part of the viper tackle social.

Finally my long (very long) blanking session is over and I managed 6!

31lb mirror

27lb 12oz common

23lb 10oz mirror

9lb 8oz mirror

stockie

23lb mirror

20lb mirror

All fish fell to pink dumbbell essential fruit wafers (bait guru) on a super short long shank blowback rig in a solid bag of bait guru bloodworm bag mix



Dave Tozer



Dean Outen



Dean Outen – New PB Catch Report

On Tuesday the 1st June, I arrived at the Farlows Complex with my mate Ryan, in the knowledge that some of the Carp in there could easily beat my current PB and the fact that I had not fished for ten or so years meant I had been stuck on 27.5lb for a good while now...

On arrival we could see that the complex was absolutely rammed with anglers and getting a peg was not going to be easy, especially one that could put us on the fish.

After a good look around Lake One, we went for a walk round Lake Two, which had more swims available and we had a chance of a thirty too but, we opted to fish Lake One and managed to squeeze into a couple of swims...!

Once my gear was in my swim, I simply chucked a single "Monster Ice Pop-Up" out about Nine Wraps straight in front of me onto a known gravel bar. I set the rod and carried on setting up my other rods and bivvy etc.

Dean Outen

I finally had all the rods out and was just starting to put the bivvy up, when I had two Bleeps from the first rod and a small Drop-Back.... that was all I needed though, and I lifted the rod and connected with a Carp.... After a thirty or so minute battle, during which the Carp managed to snag itself not once, but twice, giving me a proper heart-in-mouth moment, it then decided to make a run for my other lines, but fortunately, Ryan was on hand to get them out of the way, and I safely guided the Mirror over the net cord...

...Looking down at it in the net, I could see that it was likely to go thirty and possibly could be my new PB, but when it turned the scales to 39.8lb, I was absolutely over the moon....and holding that fish for the pictures whilst Ryan was blanking made it that much better....HaHaHa..!!!



Mark Bagshaw



Another successful few nights at the reservoir. I managed 8 fish 4 being 20 plus with the biggest going 27lb and 22lb 6oz, all fish caught on carptackleonline scorpion crank hooks, 1 fished basic hair rigs with a bit of shrink tube on the shank.

Bait wise I was using Mainline Baits Cell and Essential IB mix with pellets hemp and corn with IB syrup

Mark Toxteth



Haven't been out for a while... nice few hours today on the bank with the dog ended with this stunner. caught on @dnabaits Nutta S. I did have the rod on a solid bag filled with @dnabaits crayfish mini mix

Tim Thornton

Well, my heart felt a little dampened by all that rain last weekend. Then my scaley banger came along in the morning to cheer me up in the form of a mid-double scaley mirror.

Finding something that works, you stick to it right? Well, this was the result. A cracking 29lb 4oz common. A character carp known as "The Craffhole Common".



Taken at range on DNA baits "The Bug" on its first outing and the faithful Carptackleonline size 4 Scorpion crank hook IQ D rig

Reece Ward



I ventured out to pastures new this morning (8th May 2021) ready to tackle the wind and rain in search of a lump and I was stupidly excited to see what swam below the surface in this low key private water as I know only a handful of anglers had been given the privilege to fish it.

I turned up at the lake and quickly found the swim and spots I wanted to fish. Without hesitation I cast

out a double Banutz bottom bait from CA Baits on a simple hair rig, size 6 scorpion crank and scattered two handfuls of the same around it, fishing match the hatch on all 3 rods. .

4 hours later and it happened, my right hand rod melts off, I jump out the bivvy and my rod's almost in the lake! Frantically trying to put my jacket on rod in hand, being battered by the rain! After 20 minutes getting drenched I caught sight of what I had hooked into and it was one of the lakes A Team!

An absolutely stunning mirror weighing in at 35lb 2oz!

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Alex Bye

alex managed this 29lbs mirror from a low stock day ticket water. Proving the pulling power of DT baits N-Blend.



Alfie Tidder banked this 28lbs 10oz Ghosty from his low stocked syndicate. Alfie used a DT baits Oily chicken hard hooker coated in glm, and a 12mm zinger pop up over a bed of Oily chicken freebies.



Bobbie Pettet

Bobbie aged 4, proving the apple doesn't fall far from the tree. Bobbie banked himself a colossal 22lbs 5oz common on DT baits Supa Fruit. Well done young man.



Glenn Maulkerson

Glenn with a lovely low 30 scaly mirror caught on DT baits Cold Water Green Beast from his syndicate water.





DT baits Cold Water Green Beast is our winter bait rolled October through to March but that doesn't mean it can't put to use at other times of the year as demonstrated by Marc Kearns and this lovely dark 29lbs 8oz mirror.

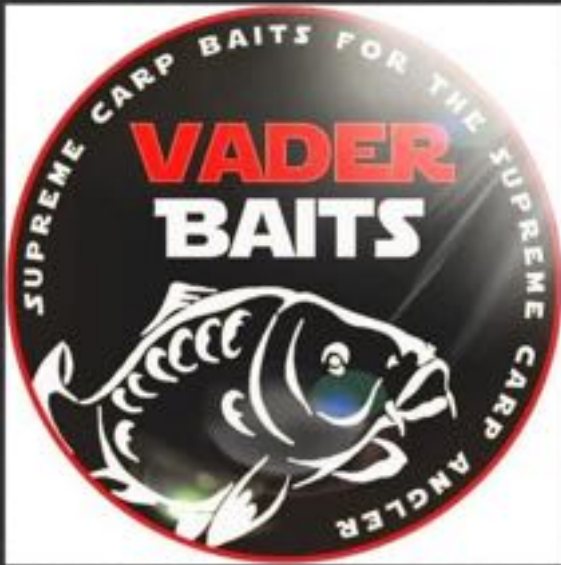


Promising young angler Kai Taylor with his impressive new PB common of 30lbs 4oz.

The Pukka fish mix Oily Chicken and some top quality angling saw Kai bank this hard earned target.



Team member Adrian done a quick overnighter on Creedy. He managed to get back onto a spot he's fished before that he had been catching from recently! He managed to land 3 including a 21lb carp and this new common PB just shy of 30lb! All the fish were tempted by SaTaN wafers in solid bags with SaTaN pellet and glug!



Team member Dean fished our Vader Baits social at Stafford Moor at the weekend.

After setting up it wasn't long until he had his first bite as his alarms screamed off. A 19lb mirror came onto the bank and first fish of the social. Then early hours of Saturday morning his rod went screaming off again resulting in a lovely 22lb 4oz mirror. Not long after his second fish the same rod screamed off and after a long fight in the rain he was graced with his new PB at 23lb 4oz. What a great session Dean had. All fish were tempted by using a single 18mm Le Nutz bollie with a few freebies around!
Congratulations Dean on your PB..!



Team member Phil fished our Vader Baits social at Stafford Moor at the weekend and what a session it was for him!!! He managed to finally beat his PB and smashed it with this 32lb 4oz Mirror!!! The fish fell to a white Grafter wafer in a pva bag of matching micro pellet, fished over a bed of Le Nutz boilie!! Congratulations Phil on your PB..!

Le Lees Carp Fishery

Welcome everyone to LE LEES Carp Fishery.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Le Lees Carp Fishery

Our price over the winter months (november 1st to march 31st) is 130 euros PPPW. 1st april to 31st october 150 euros.

We also do an evening meal at 70 euros pppw. Lake exclusive for upto 5 carpers with an evening meal is 750 euros pw.

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

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

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

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

Tight lines and may the carp gods bless you all.

Best wishes

Find us on Facebook for further information.

Matt, Tracie and Thai.



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Thankyou for Reading

send your articles and catch reports by the
28th June 2021 for next months magazine

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THE CARP MAGAZINE
FOR CARP ANGLERS WRITTEN BY

YOU !!!!!!!

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Brian Dixon

Mark Faulkner

Dave Harnick Snr

Mark Galli

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