



# Talking Carp

Magazine

Issue 83  
January 2023



New Predator  
Supplement inside

**Inside -  
Rod Bird, Scott Grant,  
Julian Cundiff and more**



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**Inside this issue we chat with Jules about his 25 year anniversary with Nash. We have articles from Richard Handel, Scott Grant, Andy Murray and even more...**

**This month will see the first part of a new supplement on Predator Angling or to be more precise, "A Beginners Guide to....".**

**As a complete novice, Mark Carper thought he would find out what 'Predator Angling' was all about and why so many Carp Anglers take it up...**

**He gets some expert advice from Lee Brooks and asks other anglers why they chase such fearsome looking creatures such as Pike...!**

**Check out Part 1 in this issue...**

**Anyway, enough for now, go get stuck in to another great issue.**

**Team Talking Carp**

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# SEE YOU ON THE BANK

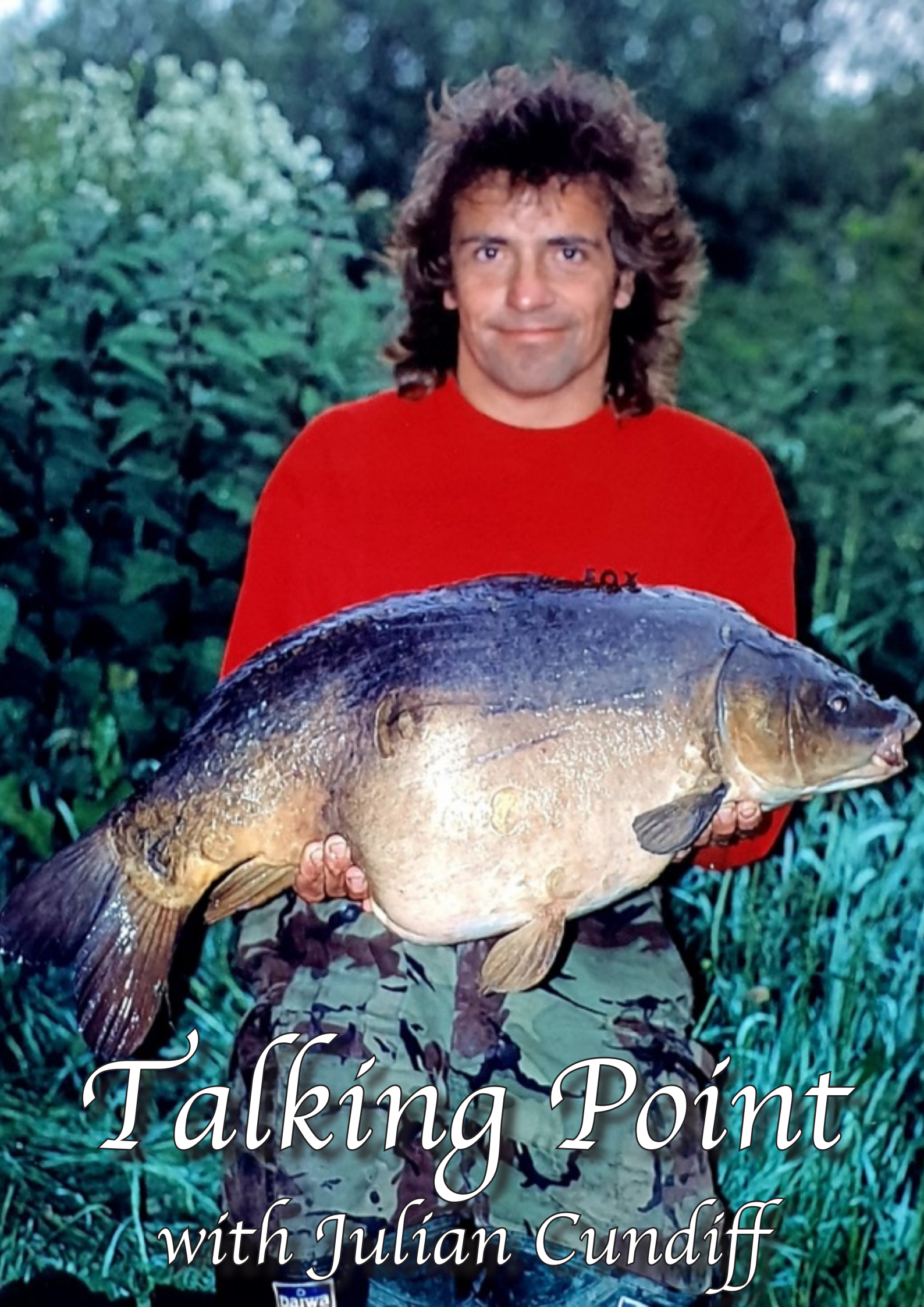
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*Talking Point*  
*with Julian Cundiff*

Daiwa

# TALKING POINT...

## *(Anniversary edition) Part 1*

**with Julian Cundiff & Brian Dixon**

**Bri :** Happy New Year Jules, and welcome to 2023 and issue 83 with us... our 7 year anniversary Now, if our sources are correct, this is quite a landmark for you too? And one we would like to talk about too... Am I right in thinking you have just signed your latest Nash contract.... making that 25 years in a row?

**Jules :** And Happy New Year to you mate and all TC readers around the world. Issue 83? Wow that's some achievement mate so you and all the team deserve a pat on the back. It's one thing to start something but to keep on keeping on is a whole different ball game. I remember talking to Tim when rival Big Carp was published and Rob had all these major underground writers penning articles for him. Tim said don't worry, getting them to do a piece or two is fine but bi monthly (then monthly) not a chance.... he was right as ever!

**Yes** just before Christmas Henry texted me then emailed me the contract and bingo my 25th year in a row. I guess it was ' technically ' signed to via a computer signature but no doubt I probably didn't do it properly being something of a technophobe in modern terms.

**Bri :** In this day and age that's one hell of an achievement, for both you and Nash ! Firstly, congratulations on the “golden anniversary contract”. So, how did it all come about? And who approached who? Nash has always been at the forefront of our sport, a pioneer in many of the products we take for granted today, so to get a Nash

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contract must have been a seriously big deal.

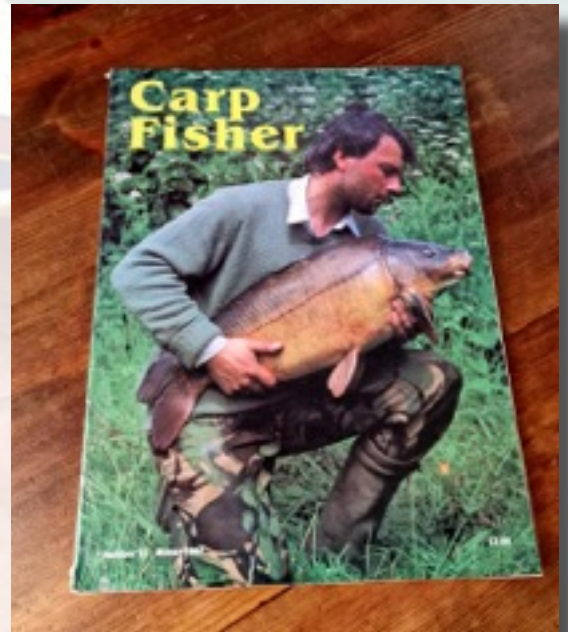
Jules : Yeah, I guess it is why the majority of sponsored anglers flip flop between companies , especially if it's their income. That's not a criticism but having the court as my primary source of income 1980 to 2018 and a decent pension now means I've not had to balance loyalty with bill paying. I've gone back through my filing cabinets (I keep everything) and the first letter I can find from Kevin himself was 1988 when he congratulated me on my catches / writings and said if I ever needed anything from Nash he'd sort it. That developed into a more solid agreement in 1990 with a set budget and modest consultancy retainer. I can tell that by my income tax returns which Nash first appear in 1990/91. I'd seen him at shows, he was definitely one of my influences and Kevin was (like Tim) all about spotting ' talent ' (not in the nightclub sense....) and giving us a chance. I bet only 10% who were given the chance ever kept at it long term though! Absolutely it was a big deal as most of the consultancies seemed to be based in the ' big fish south ' so for a young upstart from the north to get his feet (toes possibly) under the table was quite unusual to be honest.





**Bri :** So how was it in the beginning? It must have been quite daunting at first? Until you found your feet as it were? Did you have much input into how things were done? Or was it simply more promotional work that was needed from you?

**Jules :** I was lucky to be honest in that through my friendship with Tim I was coming into contact with the 'names' of carp fishing. Prior to meeting Tim, they were just faces in magazines and at conferences and slide shows but once Tim appointed me as Features Editor of Carp Fisher a connection was established. Tim gave me addresses and telephone numbers to get material off them and that link meant they were more readily available to me. I was always polite, always thanked them and on many occasions would flesh out their



work and add images (with their permission). One (he shall remain nameless) angler told me that when he read the magazine that it was the best article he'd never written. I do smile when some people claim they were the first to do this kind of thing in the mid-nineties.... five to ten years too late kidder.





So, by the time I met Kevin I knew how to be with the big names and although it was a big deal I didn't need to wear pampers. Early on I drove down to, and stayed with Kevin at his house in Essex with him and his wife at the time Sue Nash. I remember that Nash HQ in those days was tiny, disorganised, chaotic and Kev's dog Khan ruled the roost. I certainly wasn't product

development or even field testing in those days as my role was to get as much exposure of Nash products in print through my writings in *Carp Fisher*, *Carpworld*, *Carp Catcher*, *Specialist Angler* and *Coarse Fisherman*. Believe me Kev may have wanted his pound of flesh, but I delivered a kilo of it.

**Bri :** 25 years is a long time, and I have to say, there must have been some ups and downs over that period? Surely it cannot have been all sunshine and rainbows for that period of time.

**Jules :** To be fair I've never had a fall out with Kevin and bearing in mind he was / is a man of strong opinions that's not bad. When I started writing for *Angling Times* in 1994 Fox were the sponsors and it was implied that as the weekly



columnist you couldn't really be a consultant for THE rival brand. I stood down in 1994 and Kevin had no issues at all, and we stayed friends. I still used images with the odd Nash product in shot (that did not go down well with Cliff), I still used Kev and his anglers in Carpworld and Carp Fisher etc and we still stayed in contact. I find it absolutely pathetic when anglers blacken out logos of previous sponsors, put them down and forget what they used / caught fish on previously...honestly! By 1998 the sponsorship was not as stringent and to be honest I was ready for a change as quite rightly Fox wanted me ALL IN. Kev had no issue with my Daiwa or Nutrabaits ties so in 1999 I was back in the fold which means this contract takes me through to 2024, twenty five years of partnership. And as with Nash I never forgot my Fox years as you will have seen with the red Fox shots I use so often in reflective pieces. Of course, things ebbed and flowed and when Terry Hearn and Jim Shelley were consultants I kind of played second fiddle which was fine. I was always steady away playing the long game and if I were to sit down and write you a list of anglers who've been associated with Nash and jumped ship / moved on this would be a three parter. Every time Kev would tell me of the ' new big thing ' for Nash I'd smile and think to myself ' but for how long



**HERE? '... And on the other side of the coin Kevin accepted my ties to Daiwa (which he set up) and Nutrabaits (“you are a fool Jules as Nashbait is better, but I respect your loyalty “).**

**Bri : We know first-hand that this kind of relationship must be a two way street, and you must support each other through the good times and the bad times. Our private lives can have a huge bearing on our hobbies/passions outside the real world and knowing someone is always there for you when needed is a great feeling. We know that you and Kevin Nash have been so much more than just a business arrangement and are now very good friends too. Is that something that developed naturally for you both?**

**Jules : I've always tried to be a loyal person and remember those who gave me opportunities no matter how long ago hence you will always see me remembering Tim, Andy, Bally, KM, etc.... now that's definitely a forgotten art in '22 where people namecheck those that they think attract kudos even when they've never met them ! Kev is one of those I'd view as a friend irrespective of our business links. Friendships ebb and flow and don't require you to be in each other's pockets 24/7. I've been to Kev's house on a number of occasions, and he's stayed with me. I've attended his wedding, his big birthday and**



whenever I'm at HQ we meet up. I respect what he's done for carp fishing since the seventies and I'm sure Kevin is proud of my bit too. Put it this way if Nash doesn't renew me for 2023/24 or I choose not to renew we ain't falling out. That said he ain't having the Ferrari back.....

Bri: I simply cannot imagine you driving a Ferrari around the backroads of Yorkshire... but then again...

Anyway, that is all for this month folks, check in next month when we cover more of this fascinating subject with Jules.

Remember you can catch Jules on all his social media pages that are packed with hints, tips and some great advice.

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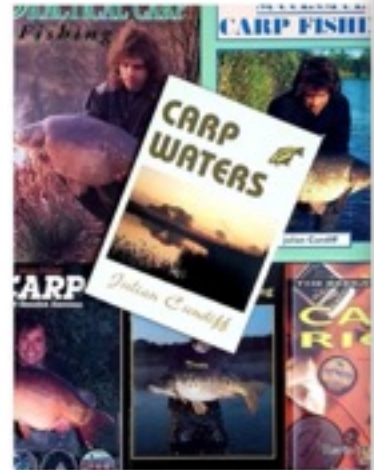
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# Julian Cundiff Angling

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



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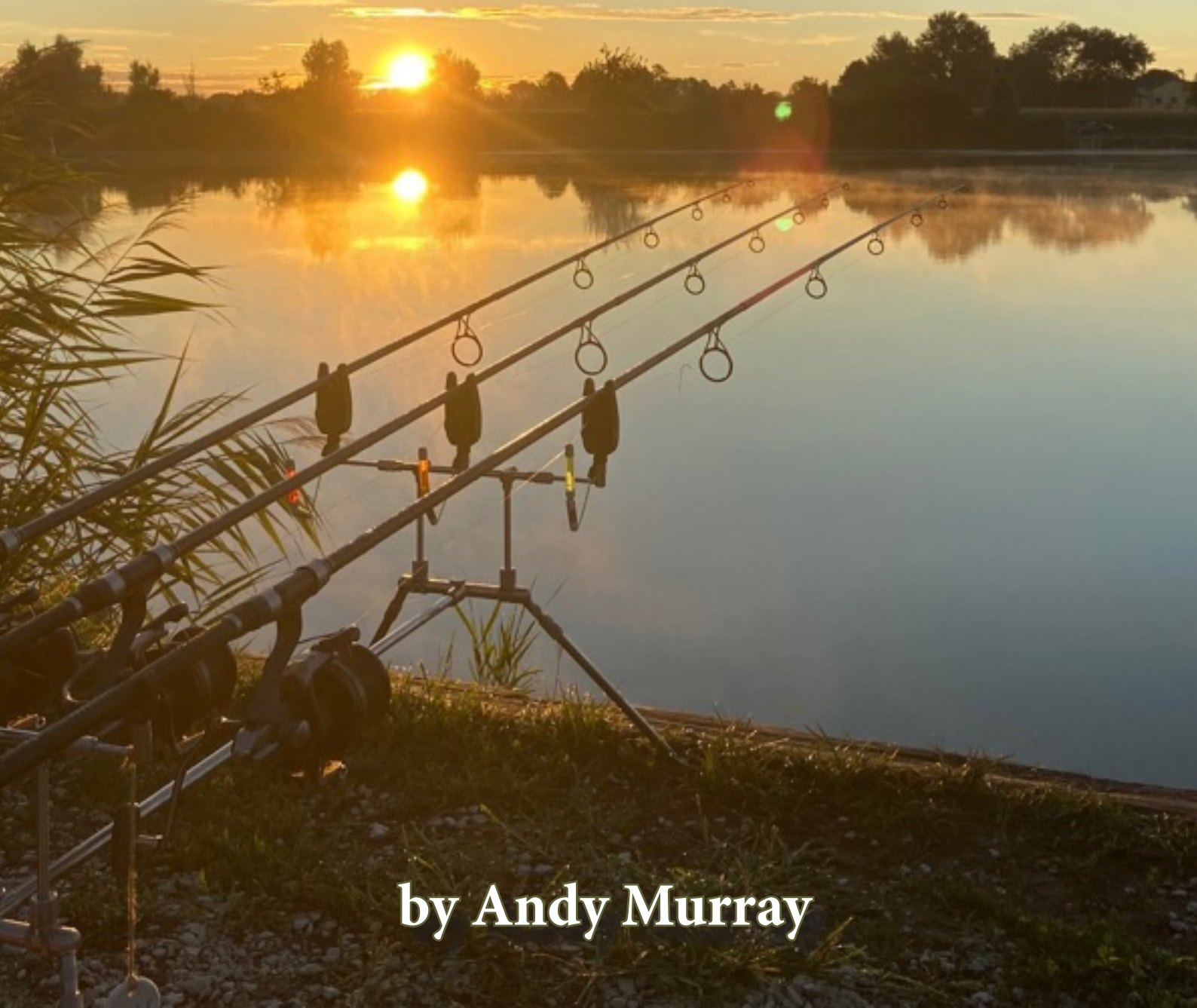
**2023**

**MANCHESTER**



**BOWLERS  
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# Looking Back/Looking Forward



by Andy Murray



**Hi** all, hope you all had a great Christmas and New Year. I guess I have been in a bit of a sombre and more reflective mood in the run up to Christmas. Following on from my friend Keith passing away, I had two more friends pass away very suddenly in the run up to Christmas, I guess it's bound to happen as we all get older together. The thing is, they were all younger than me, by some years in two cases. I just wanted to say thanks to all those that have sent in their good wishes. We are in the process of setting up a couple for memorial events for Keith for next summer. The first one is going to be at the Carp Societies Festival of Carp at Horseshoe. We are thinking of setting up a stand with a book of condolences at the event, more details will be published in due course. The second is likely to be a weekend event here in Yorkshire, again details to be published in due course.

Family wise, we had a quite run up to Christmas, a few parties but nothing too heavy, a quiet Christmas with the family at home. As I'm sitting writing this up it's between Christmas and New Year. It's a time I generally use for

thinking things through business-wise and making plans for a good start in January when people start to think about their new year's resolutions and having a sort out of finances amongst other things. There was a time I would have been out on the bank for a couple of days in between Christmas and New Year, like I see so many others doing at the moment. that will wait until next year now I guess, which is only a week away in reality. For the last few years, I have not fished in December either, barring the occasional afternoon, just so many things seem to be going on for me. It also makes it as if it's a fresh start in the New Year. As a bit of a recap and helping me plan for next year, I thought I would have a look at my fishing through 2022 some of the good and bad points.

## January-

Started with some mildish weather, and I had a few trips to the Airport lake, catching a few of the smaller carp but nothing of any size, it was good to get out after a December break and make a start to the years fishing, I did make more of an effort with my presentation and in the colder months with use of maggots



to be a lake to watch for the future.

## February/March-

It was a bit of a dry time fishing wise, once the days start to draw out in late February I do like to start night fishing again. I attended a couple of the first fishing shows for some years, the Northern Carp show and The Big One. The Northern show was great, the first show since the lockdown started and it was a great atmosphere, just as if everyone were glad to be out, catching up with old friends once again.

than I have done in recent years. Which definitely helped me catch a few more carp. As the fishing is around the 100-yard mark it also helps with keeping my arm in as well. I tend to try and time the sessions with a bit of mild weather, as I definitely feel the cold a bit more these days. It is quite an easy place to fish as I can wheel the barrow from my garage into the van using a ramp and then out at the lake, all nice paths as it's a park. As these carp grow in here, it is going

The Big One show was good, but maybe lacked the same atmosphere for me. Those 2 long weekends away meant it did eat into my fishing for a few weeks in February and march, given that I only have 2 nights every 2 weeks for my fishing related activities, when I did get out, I found the fishing on the Pits very hard, I usually get one or two carp early doors, but it just didn't happen for me, I just seemed to not get

the location right at all and like most day ticket waters the big pit remained very busy post lock-down.

## April-

The weather warmed up a bit here in the UK and I had my first trip to France of the year. La Saule Paqaut was our destination, my target being one or two of the better carp that resided in there. We had an extremely hard week fishing wise, the weather was cold, bitterly cold, it was more like March weather with Easterly winds and hard frosts. I did manage to nail a new PB, in the form of a 57lb Grass carp, it was just a massive fish, it beat me up in the water and on the bank, as well as ruining my net. It was a pity I didn't get some better Photos though. I also spent some time during that trip looking round some of my old Haunts-Madine, Amance, Lac du Der, with the idea of fishing here again in the future as part of my retirement plans in the next few years.

## May-

The weather finally seemed to

warm properly up at last, the bigger carp in the Pits remained elusive. My fishing time seemed to keep getting eroded by many different things. When I did get out, the lakes seemed so busy and worse than that I continued to be in the wrong places and getting it very, very wrong. Overall, a poor month for me in the carp catching stakes.

## June-

Started with the Queens Jubilee, lots of time had been spent





planning a big party, I organized a BBQ at our local pub, all the proceeds going to a local Cancer charity. Which went really well but again it ate into my fishing time. I had a couple of trips down to Trent view. Whilst I never really get amongst them in numbers as some do, I always manage a few nice carp here. I have been trying to hone my PVA bag fishing this year and it definitely seems to be working based on these trips. I really enjoyed my trips to Trent View, it's such a great fishery, very well run by Ian.

## July-

I didn't fish too much in July at all,

we had a big family holiday planned, as we were going away with the family, including my daughter who works with me, we had a lot of planning business wise leading up to the time away. When I did get back, I had an urge to have a look round for some

places to fish besides the big Pit. I had a ride around a few lakes and decided to have a few trips to a lake not too far from where I live, The Approach Fisheries. I decided to try a few one nighters from late July onwards. I knew it would be a challenge as there are some good anglers around who put a fair bit of time in. It was also in July I decided to join the Key Baits team, my chosen bait for the rest of the year being the ASM.

## August-

Our long awaited trip to Parco Del Brenta came around. It was booked a long time ago and a lot of planning had gone into the trip. 1100 miles to drive is no easy task

and it has to be treated as an adventure, yes things are going to go wrong, and of course they did, I try to be philosophical about it, most of the time anyway! We had a great week at Parco, the fishing was quite hard in our area, but we ended up with some nice carp. The weather was very-very hot and made for a very draining week. I will definitely go back there at some point, but definitely at a different time of year.

## September-

Back from Parco I was looking forward to a few overnights on the Approach

Fisheries, through September and early October.

Whilst I had a few nights and caught a few carp, all doubles, it didn't really seem to click for me. I think having got used to fishing on the big pit and being on my own, it was a bit weird other anglers being 10-20 yards away, mostly all fishing

to similar areas. At this point I'm not sure I will continue with this, but the plan was to fish into the Autumn and see what might happen.

## October-

I had planned to continue with the nights on the Approach, but some building renovations and an extra trip to France put paid to that. The building renovations had been put back a few times since Spring, so it was more than I dared to put them off again! The wife was getting fed up with waiting for her new bathroom! The trip to France came



about by joining another group, after someone had dropped out. The venue was a lake in the Champagne region called Etang Des Deux Pierre's, a well-known big carp water. Fishing wise it was a tough week, I only managed two bites but enjoyed being out on the bank. It was also a bit of a learning curve as well, as it was a similar type of lake to La Saule, where I had been earlier in the year. I thought I would do a bit better than I actually did. If I'm going to fish more of these type of waters in the future, I do need to re-think my strategy a bit, or I need to be a bit luckier in the draw...

## November-

Back from France, I had planned to have a couple more nights on the Approach after catching up with work and family and finishing the building renovations. Then came the news about my friend Keith Passing away. As I have already said, it knocked the stuffing out of me, a lot of time was spent speaking with folk about Keith and writing up some pieces for different Websites and pages. As well as helping the family. Not one fishing trip in the whole of November, in what can be a good fishing month.

## December-

That brings us up to now. I tend not to fish much in December, more time is spent with family and clients seeing the year out and planning for Christmas. Which in turn helps me plan for the New Year. I consider myself



lucky having had a number of holidays and trips abroad this year. All of my fishing trips were add ons to other groups trips. Which is something I probably will not do again without a lot more forethought and due diligence. Looking back at the last year, it feels like I wasn't very successful at catching carp. I mostly felt as if I was nicking the odd carp, rather than getting it right and catching more. It could be I was actually making the best of tough situations and I was actually doing ok, given the time I had on the bank in the right spots. Some anglers might think a number of 30's, 40's and a 50 isn't a bad year, I personally feel it should have been a bit more. I definitely don't regret the times I spent with my family in the last year, especially with my Grandson. The carp will be there in the future, maybe myself, my family or my friends might not be...

## The year ahead-

I am going to put much more planning

on where I fish abroad next year, and I will try to make it more on my terms than others. There's no doubt that lockdown affected travelling for a year or two, so trips were booked at the earliest opportunity without too much thought as to destinations as well. Also, the type of waters I want to fish as well will have a large bearing on my decisions. I am minded to try some public areas in France I have been made aware of. As well as finally getting back to Eastern Europe, even if I have to go on my own. As to fishing in the UK, I haven't made my mind up yet, I will have a few day sessions on the Airport Lake in January and February as I have said, just to get out and start the year. Then Sal and I are having a bucket list holiday, which is to go the Pacific Coast



of Mexico to see the whales close up, this is something we have planned since she was diagnosed with Cancer, which was 3 years ago this week. Once we are back from holiday in Mid-March, I will start more regular night fishing trips which will continue through Spring and into early Summer, I will definitely have a few more trips to Trent View, it is a bit far travel wise for two-night sessions, I may just have to man up and do the driving! I will split my time between there and the Pits though for the early part of the year. In the summer I have a few social weekends planned, including as I had said a couple of events I am planning for Keith.

By the time you read this, it will be midway into January and the New Year will be underway.

I hope you all

had a great Christmas and New Year. Whatever your plans are this year, fishing or otherwise, try to make sure you enjoy all aspects of those plans.

Wishing you all a Happy and successful 2003 whatever you do.

Catch you next time.

Andy

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# THE DELL

## THE CAMPAIGN CONTINUES

### BY SCOTT GEEZER GRANT



A couple of weeks later and it was that time again, the excitement builds days before I'm due to go fishing, like a little kid at Christmas. I only had 3 nights at my disposal and I was hoping the swim I had been concentrating on was free. The anticipation as I pulled through the gate was off the chart, I made my way down the road bank and could see once round the bend that the swim I had been concentrating on was free. I parked in the bay behind the swim and sat on the steps watching the water, I did not have to wait long before I saw what I was hoping for, a fish, but not out in front of me. The fish were showing like crazy at the other end of the lake in front of the lodge bank. The wind was hacking into the bank, a full on Easterly.

I now had a big decision to make, I jumped back in my van and made my way back down to the main car park. I walked along the lodge bank and I decided against my will to go into the corner swim when all the time I was telling myself to go into the White Bag. There was one angler fishing the lodge bank and he had banked his first UK 40lber in the early hours and that is what swayed me massively to

fish this end, where there's one biggun there's more. I got all the gear loaded on the barrow and once in the swim proceeded to get the rods sorted then set the house up. Fish were still showing as I was flicking the rods out with just a small webbing pva bag of crumbed boilies. A few hours later I had everything set up and come 11:00 o'clock the fish stopped showing. I was still debating to move into the bag at the other end of the lake and a couple of hours later Mark turned up and went in there so now even if I wanted to, I couldn't move anyway. I sat on my hands for the rest of the day and was up super early the next morning, and the fish were showing but not in front of me but out in front of the White bag! I reeled the rods in and walked up to the bag swim, Mark was still asleep and I stood there watching the fish show over the three spots I had been feeding. Now Mark only usually does overnights and I was hoping this was going to be the case when he wakes up. It was not long after he woke up to find me sitting in his swim watching the water, I apologised for sitting in his swim and then asked when are you going home, to which he replied "I am off in an hour to work"



Happy days I went back to my swim and packed all the gear up and ran it round to the swim I should have started in. With Mark all packed up and off to work it was time for me to start my session, with now only two nights left as I had wasted 24hrs up the other end.

The rods were dispatched to the spots I had fished previously and the spots that have seen quite a bit of bait. The house went up next and all the gear sorted and in its place. I spent the day watching the water for any signs of life, come the evening and the fish started to show, all over me and to my right, the fish were clearly here in numbers and with the wind due to change to a West/South Westerly tomorrow morning it would surely

keep them here. Even into darkness I could hear them crashing out all over the swim. I went to sleep around midnight and was woken to my receiver blasting out, the middle rod was away, I jumped out the bag and was straight on the rod. I lifted into a lively fish that put up a great battle, five minutes later it was engulfed in my waiting net.

The fish was a lovely scaley stockie of 20lb 15oz. Adam who was fishing in the swim to my right was up and heard me playing the fish and he obliged with the camera and took a couple of snaps before she was treated for a couple of spawning sores on her body, then put back. It was just before 05:00 o'clock I got the rod rebaited and back out onto the spot with a good helping of bait.



was feeling a lot more confident. I still had fish showing over the rods and the right-hand spot started to slick up so I knew the fish were getting on the bait, surely it was only a matter of time before the rod would be away. I received a

But I was not happy with the rig, I had a couple of rigs made up and my plan was to change all the rods over but I completely forgot. So, I thought to myself I will change them later today. An hour later the middle rod was away again but this time I only felt the fish on for a few seconds then gone. I was so annoyed with myself as I knew I should have changed the rig over. Well, a valuable lesson learned there, fish effectively, and do not think that will be okay, when you know in your heart it will not be okay!!

With the new rig on I fished a wafter over the baited area, as it was now a lot cleaner than when I first fished this swim. With the new rig on I

couple of bleeps an hour apart and that was it!! I kept thinking the fish had done me.

The temperature today was forecast to be 27oc, not my preferred weather but hey ho if the fish are feeding, I will be fishing. I spent the day sitting in the shade where I could find it and late afternoon the rods were wound in and I went for a lovely shower to freshen up. Once back at the swim I had some dinner then got the rods out to their spots with more free bait. I then settled down for the evening having a cheeky cider and watching the water. Into the evening and well into the night the fish started to show once again. I drifted off to sleep just before 11pm, I woke up and

immediately looked at my phone it was 05:00 o'clock I looked out in front of the swim and a fish crashed out over the middle rod, then a lovely slick appeared over the right-hand rod. I stuck the kettle on and was fully prepared if one of the rods went. I sat drinking my first coffee of the day watching the water for me it is definitely the best time of the day. Just after 06:00 o'clock the left-hand rod burst into life, I was straight on the rod and as soon as I lifted into the fish, I knew it was a much better one, the fish gave a good account of itself and after what seemed like an age a long scaley banger was engulfed in the net. The fish weighed in at 26lb 7oz and was an absolute banger. Mark one of the bailiffs came round and took great photos, with the fish returned I wasted no time and got the rod straight back on the spot. I then put the kettle on for a celebratory cup of tea. At 08:30 the right-hand rod produced another cracking fish of 18lb 11oz, and again Mark obliged with the photos. I was due to pack up and go home today as I am back



at work tomorrow afternoon, so I called the Mrs and asked when she was expecting me home, her reply was I thought you were coming home tomorrow!!

Perfect another night it is then, I don't need any encouragement.

I did have a problem and that was that I had run out of bait, so with the rods wound in I popped home to get some more bait, fresh clothes, and some more food. An hour or so later I was back at the lake, and the rods were prepared and put back out, with the spots getting a lovely drop of bait. I was using whole and crushed Monster Tuna boilies along with pellet and chillie hemp with

added hemp oil. The fish seem to love this combination and as long as they are eating it, I will keep feeding it.

After a lovely dinner washed down with a cold cider it was a lovely evening the wind was pumping from my left to right a lovely warm South Westerly, again come darkness and the fish started to show themselves but more towards the far bank. I went to sleep just after 11pm and woke up at 05:00 o'clock busting for a pee!! I relived

myself then stuck the kettle on. Just before 06:00 o'clock the fish started showing, but further out, then an hour later they were showing more over towards the baited areas, and an hour after that the middle rod produced a lovely plump 20lb 12oz common, 45 minutes later the right hand was away and produced a stockie of 17lb 8oz, the fish were clearly on the bait and gorging it. Come 10:30 I started to pack

everything up and get myself home as I had to leave for work just after 1pm.



For me it had been another successful session banking 5 fish and proof that the bait and my bait strategy is working along with the rig change.

Unfortunately, due to work constraints I will not be on the bank again for a few weeks, but will the run of good fortune continue? Do I get back in the same swim? All will be revealed in my next instalment out in the next month's issue. Trust me this is one not to be missed. I would like to thank the following companies for their products of which I use in my fishing.

[www.a2baits.co.uk](http://www.a2baits.co.uk)

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

[www.castaway-pva.co.uk](http://www.castaway-pva.co.uk)

In the Margin Particles (Facebook)  
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If you would like more information on becoming a member of The Dell contact Michael Prior on 07768-124462 he will be more than happy to help.





# Scott Grant



The Monster Tuna boilie range along with pop ups, dips etc is readily available at your local stockist, or visit the A2 baits website for the full bait range. [www.a2baits.co.uk](http://www.a2baits.co.uk)

For the sharpest, strongest hooks that don't cost a fortune, plus an array of end tackle have a look at [www.sharptackle.co.uk](http://www.sharptackle.co.uk)

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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. [www.castaway-pva.co.uk](http://www.castaway-pva.co.uk)

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Scott "Geezer" Grant



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# Rod Bird – “It’s Winter so what changes ..??”



by Mark Carper

With 'Winter Carping' well underway, I thought I would go and hassle Mr. Rod Bird again and find out how he approaches this time of year and what, if anything, he does differently in terms of bait, preparation and presentation.

Rod is a very 'consistent' angler and produces regular catches from venues both here and Europe and always seems to manage a big one too... Early December saw him head out to France in day-time temperatures of just 3°C and a light snow covering on occasion and he still managed a good few fish up to 51lb 10oz... In his own words "I must be mad, or dedicated..?!" .....

.... or is it more than that..??

My question for Rod this time was a simple one... "What do you do and how do you do it...?"

*Hi Rod, Happy New Year or Haud Hogmanay and Lang may yer lum reek!... and welcome back to the Mag and big congrats on yet 'another' 50lb+ carp...*

*...Now, you knew it wasn't going to be that simple didn't you... So let's start with Bait shall we.... You mentioned last time that you were a consultant with 'Karper Ltd', but how does fishing in the Winter months differ from the other seasons and is there a particular bait you find works better and do you do anything particular in the preparation...?*

**RB: Hi Mark, thanks for having me back, well this is a massive**





question really, the winter months are hard going but there are a few things we can do to make catching more likely. Firstly, it helps if you can fish a water that has 'winter form', usually that means a water with a bit of depth, a good stock of carp and gets fished constantly, trust me it doesn't take long for the carp to shut down if they are not triggered into feeding.

We can use the best baits on the planet, but if you can't locate the carp you are going to struggle, winter form or not. I take time to walk around my waters during the winter to see if the carp give themselves away, if you find them it's likely they will not be alone and won't venture too far from that spot and catching can be possible, with the right bait and application.

In the winter I still use boilies, pop ups and wafers, but they need to be right for the job, I believe that you should be looking at Hi Viz Fruity types of bait, with low levels of oil as the carp find oils hard to digest in the colder water, so a bird feed type bait not a fishmeal one, although I know a few anglers who fish with fishmeal bait throughout the year and do well, but my preference is the bird feed ones.

This winter I've been using Karper Ltd 'Tutti Frutti' Ultra-Fluro Winter Specials as hook baits with their Sweetcorn boilies, hemp and maize as feed and I'm doing pretty well with



them and yeah I can hear you all now, "Tutti Frutti is an old school bait, must have blown by now", well you tell the carp that, they seem to love it...!!!

I must point out though, I won't just grab a boilie out of the pot or bag and stick it onto my rig..... I pre-soak all my hook baits and freebies in their respective gel and liquid and in the summer, I will add the respective oil too..!



*TC: I presume your approach to the preparation of your bait for Winter fishing can be applied to any manufacturers bait, or should anglers be looking for certain 'ingredients' or 'levels of concentrate' etc.*

**RB:** Look I'm not about to slag off other bait companies, it's not the way I roll (get it) but I must give you an insight into how baits are usually rolled. Normally bait companies roll a base mix and then split it down, they will then place batches into vacuum bags and add the flavours and different levels of concentrates, they will then leave them to let the flavours etc soak in, most of the time not very effectively and after a few hours in the water they lose their flavours and triggers.



At Karper Ltd, without letting the cat out of the bag we add our flavours and concentrates to the base mix, during the mixing period, thus the flavours etc are actually part of the mix and evenly spread throughout the mix, they are then rolled, boiled and dried.

With our Tutti Frutti Winter Specials our Dispersion Pop-Ups and Hi Viz Pop-Ups we go through the same process, then they are taken out of the dryer and re-coated in the flavours and attractors and then dried again, these pop ups will stay buoyant for days, leaking off flavours and triggers throughout their time in the water.

The same process is used in our Dispersion Pellets and 'Streamerz' Pellets. The levels of flavours, attractants and triggers don't change throughout the year.

*TC: What about 'Naturals' this time of year.. do they have a part to play...?*

**RB:** I've used Maggots and Worms many times, but I'm really a boilie man, there are waters where the natural approach is the only way, and if that's the case, then I will use them, but to be honest if I can use a boilie I will.

*TC: In terms of 'quantity' there is much written about using 'singles'*

*in the colder months and only feeding small amounts of bait, so what do you do and is it the same approach for every water you fish...?*





**RB:** I'll always cast a single to a showing fish in the winter, but if possible, I'll get some crushed/chopped boilies out there too, not too many but it boosts my confidence if there are a couple of freebies around the bait.

I reduce the number of freebies by about 70% and crush more boilies in the colder weather, it's really the flavour and attractants I want in the water column not really the food side of the bait. I really believe in

adding the extra flavours and attractants, you really need to trigger the carp into feeding, you know the feeling when you're out and about and you don't really fancy anything to eat.....then you walk past a Chippy, game over!

*TC: Do you have a 'preferred' method of presenting the bait...?*

**RB:** It's the Million Dollar Question, if I can use a bait boat I will, with a couple of handfuls of bait, a nugget of foam over the hook point, if no bait boats are allowed I'm more than happy to cast, but keep the casting down to a minimum, if the carp are there you don't want to thrash the water to a foam.

PVA bags are good in the winter as you can have the hook bait and freebies in one bag, less commotion, but just remember it takes longer for PVA to melt in cold water, and I'm always conscious of the little bit of PVA that always comes back in the winter even after





several hours. It's all about stealth really, the least amount of disturbance is vital on shorter sessions, the carp when you find them will be settled, you need to keep it that way.

On longer sessions you can get away with a bit of disturbance as the carp will move away but will always and I mean always come back to that spot, they are there in the first place because they are comfortable there.

*TC: As you have already said, the Carp are less active during the Winter, so what 'Watercraft' do you employ and is that any*

*different from other times of the year...?*

**RB:** A quick answer is no, my approach to finding fish is about the same all year round, but in the winter, it tends to take a lot longer. As I mentioned earlier, I walk around my waters during the winter looking for signs of active carp, it's very hard to locate them with the wind on the water as there won't be much cruising or lunking going on, and spotting fizzers isn't easy. First light and last light are good times to explore as the wind usually dies down enough to see signs, the odd head or fizzer can be spotted, my rule of thumb in the winter is "If you see a fish, cast to it as there will probably be more than one in that area"

I use my Future Carpings V60 Bait Boat (let's not get into that

argument about cheating) with a Fish Finder and GPS on it, this is a fantastic tool, you can see the topography of the lakebed, possibly see carp and you can save the location for later.

I must point out that when I was in France in December that's how I found the areas where the carp should be, but once I had found the spots I still went out in the boat with my prodding stick and checked the areas before going for it, so about 5 hours were spent finding my spots, basically use the tools you have available.

If you haven't got a Bait Boat get a lead out there and lead around, the lakes are usually quiet at this time of year, so even if you're not

actually fishing there's no harm in having a Marker Rod in the car ready to check some areas, as long as you're not going to disturb some Hardcore Carper in the process.



*TC: ...and what about 'Rigs' ... can you walk us through what you use this time of year and how that differs from the other seasons...?*

**RB:** During the colder months a lot if not most of the weed has died back and laying on the bottom, sometimes a few inches thick, as it dies it takes in water so

is thick, heavy, and slimy, so a bottom bait type of rig wouldn't work well and that is why I like to use either a Ronnie/Spinner rig and sometimes a Hinged Stiff rig and we can never pass over on the Choddy if fishing at extreme range.

But all this depends on the depth of the dying weed on the bottom and remember you will probably find the fish in and around this weed in the cold weather as there's loads of naturals in the weed as it starts to decompose, so you will probably not be fishing just clear gravel spots, so a bottom bait type of rig wouldn't work well, don't get me wrong if the water is fishing through winter and there are gravel areas you may be lucky, if that's the case a bright Tutti Frutti wafter would be my choice.

I approach each venue differently, I allow the water to dictate what rig I'm going to use, I usually go with a few types of rigs tied up with a preconception of using them, 9 times out of 10 I'm tying new rigs within the first few hours. As usual ensure you have a really sharp hook, find a company that suits your budget, you don't have to follow the in crowd and spend a fortune.

I use Terminal Tackle UK products, a great company and their end tackle doesn't cost the earth, the hooks are insane, the Advanced Curves are my go-to hook for most of my rigs, several of my closest fishing buddies have started using them too and I haven't dropped a single carp since using their hooks and end tackle.



*TC: For those that tend to 'hang their rods up' at this time of year, what advice would you give them if they do decide to venture out in these cold temperatures ...?*

**RB: Stay at home, I'll do the fishing! But if you feel the need to get out there, find that venue with winter form, you're probably best doing some day sessions to see how you get on, trust me it's not easy staying active and vigilant during the long winter nights, make sure it's good for you, it shouldn't be a chore.**

**Wear the right clothing, use the right bait and work hard, the results will not come easily, you have to keep at it, trust your bait and end tackle, a winter carp is a very special carp as you will have worked hard in harsh conditions to get it.**

*TC: Also, in terms of tackle, do you have a 'Winter Setup' or do you have any specific items of gear you use that doesn't see the bank at other times...?*



**RB:** A bigger mug for my morning brew! To be honest, my set up stays the same all year round, apart from some extra warm clothing and a 2nd layer for my sleeping bag, that's it really, usually less bait so getting to the swim is made easier.

*TC: ...and what are your plans during the next few months and for 2023...?*

**RB:** My diary is crazy for this year, forget January, February and March I'll be doing my own stuff on my syndicate, probably a trip to France and a few socials with my close friends, but come April it all kicks off...

*....so far I've got the Karper Social at Norton Disney, Carp4Kids fundraiser mixed pairs event at Linear, Forces Carp Classic UK at Wraysbury, back to Serene 2 in France, Karper Sumbar trip to Croatia, Carp4Kids Academy at S&R Fisheries, Etang du Manoir in Brittany followed by The Forces Carp Classic at Abbey Lakes in the Champagne Region... that's before I get a few trips of my own fishing in!*

*TC: Wow that is a full diary.. I'll make sure I keep in touch then to see how you're getting on... Once again, it's been a pleasure catching up with you and thank you so much for taking the time to share your methods and thoughts with us for this tricker time of year... and now that's over with, off the record Rod, tell me about how I should approach 'Spring'.....*

**RB:** LOL, wait out for that one, I've got a bit of fishing to do....!!!

Facebook –

Rod Bird Carp Angler

Carp4Kids Academy

Instagram - @carprod66

Terminal Tackle UK - <https://www.terminaltackle.uk/>

Karper (Carp Baits) - <https://www.karper.co.uk/>

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**AUTUMN ON THE AIRFIELD LAKE PART 2**  
**BT RICHARD HANDEL**





**I hope you've enjoyed part 1, as much as I did being there - along with the joy and excitement that built over these sessions.**

Enjoy

I wasn't working today and next week I can't get down the lake until Friday morning. So I was up and down the lake by first light and looking about. However, the wind is picking up to gusts of around 50mph, so I was mindful of the wind direction. To complicate matters, the wind was swinging around a lot over the next 48hrs. The water levels are still very low, so the swim option was still quite limited.

When I arrived (just after 7), I was the only one there, Ian was due down at 0930. We'd chatted yesterday

about our options and I pitched up in our first choice of swim. This was based on the weather forecast, previous year's captures, and recent information from other anglers.

The water levels are a real pain at the moment, along with the high winds. It rules out some of the very exposed swims, plus the real gravelly one, as you can't get your pegs in very well.

It was the only choice unless we split up completely and fish different lakes altogether and some distance apart. With Ian's nights coming to an end at the end of October, it's nice to pitch up and be social before the winter sets in. He just can't do the long hours of darkness stuck in a bivvy in the cold, damp and

possibly wet.

This swim also gave Ian a couple of options. All I've done is flicked a couple of bags out and will wait for his arrival before I set about getting the bait out.

At one point yesterday afternoon, I thought we were in for a big storm, but it passed us by and the early evening was fabulous.

The last light is fading through the trees, it's amazing how warm the sunshine still is. My first night was bleep free, which after the last two trips was a shock – 3 fish on the first night. The lake had returned to its normal form, which with the cold night and clear skies wasn't a shock.

It was a very misty grey start, hopefully, the sun will burn off the mist and give us some

sunshine before the storm arrives this afternoon. Heavy rain and strong winds peaking at 40mph, it should pass over by 10pm tonight. This should hopefully bring the fish on and we will have a few carp tonight.

My first take was just before 4pm in the middle of a downpour and luckily the fish was well-behaved and soon in the net.

Perfect start, plus a

daylight fish, which is a real bonus lately for me. The rain had eased a bit, so I was able to get a new PVA bag back out without any fuss.

My second take was about an hour later, but clearly, from the off, a lot smaller carp were about.

You can never choose what you catch and should be grateful and thankful for another bite, I was over the moon. Unfortunately, it

was raining heavily, so much for me using a PVA bag. I did try, but failed and just stuck with a single hook bait, which unbelievably rattled off again about quarter to six! This one was on a mission to go left and for lovely overhanging trees, I just managed to stop it and played the carp out under the rod tip.

I checked it twice, despite the lashing rain and yep it was 20lb on the noise.

I quickly flicked the rod back out, I hadn't dried off from the first fish and was getting wetter, but just didn't care. I was completely in the moment, at least I had finished my tea, which I was eating when the second carp came along.

The next take was well into darkness, around 1930, and was in the





going for the left-hand margins. I held firm and it headed my way and was soon in the net. It was about 12lb and I was glad the rain had more or less passed over now. With another single hook bait on, the rod was back out there once again.

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

The next bite was back on the left-hand rod again, once I had pulled into the fish and gained some ground, it immediately ran towards me and was

My next take was about 2115 and on the right-hand rod. This carp kited left, and then as I was gaining ground, it absolutely ripped off back out into the darkness. I finally coaxed it towards the

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



net and on my first attempt, it was straight in there. I don't like to rush netting carp, as it can so easily go wrong, there's no point in rushing the process.

Perfect and I can't quite believe my luck at the moment. These fish have obviously switched on due to the weather and are really munching on my bait. I'm definitely going to be topping up the swim tomorrow morning.

My next take was just before 2330 and on that left rod again. This fish held its ground but slowly started coming towards me, with ever-increasing ease. I was wondering how big it was, in my mind, it was getting smaller by the minute. It headed towards the margins trees and was easily coaxed away, it didn't take much to get it in the net, once I looked



in the net, wow! I lifted it out of the water and onto the mat.

## **31lb 12oz**

Absolutely fabulous and I'm over the moon with this result. The wind had died away, the lake was flat and calm and I couldn't believe my luck. The next two takes happened within minutes of each other and the first goes to show how you really can't pick the size, a 10 lber

The second fish is a lot bigger and not your normal shape of carp for this lake. 16lb 10oz

Pretty and definitely had to weigh this one, mind you, I generally weigh most fish and definitely take a photo or a screenshot from the video footage. I did with a lot of these today, due to all of the rain and wind. Both rods are back out, and it was time to get back in my pit once more, I

was finally drying out. It wasn't until 0305 when the right rod was away with another lovely Airfield Common, giving me a good run around the swim. 16lb 10oz

I'm not sure if I'm going to get any sleep tonight, but do I care? Not at all, it's turning into another great session.

What an amazing night that was and with only 24 hours to go, who knows what was going to happen. I topped up the swim at about 0930 and did a fresh Pva bag, as I'd had to abandon that, with the heavy rain last night.

We head into the last night, wishing for more fish, but being humble about what we have achieved and really hoping that Ian managed to avoid a blank tonight.



This was no way out of the question and has been done by us both on many an occasion, we will just have to see how it pans out.

Just before 6 pm, I heard a splash and looked out along Ian's margins and he was into a carp. I quickly headed over to his swim.

Once on the net, I sorted out the camera kit and scales. 16 lber

He was very happy, with his blank saver, it keeps the continuity of not blanking, and his confidence levels up, it makes all the difference.

The weather had turned again after a lovely sunny afternoon, it looks like it's going to be a wet pack-up. This wasn't on the forecast at all until early evening. There's not a lot we can do

and it's certainly been a long time since I've packed up in the rain, I promised the wife and kids I would be home early as well.

Fingers crossed for a bite or two tonight. My next take was just before 1 am on the right-hand rod and I was really feeling I had this carp under control until it found a boulder to my right. I walked down to where I had been netting the carp that go that way and put the rod on the floor. I loosened the clutch and within a couple of

minutes, it was away. I picked the rod up and pulled back into the fish, which was now going hard right and after the overhanging trees between me and Ian. I was mindful of Ian's lines and listened out for any bleeps, which was ok. The carp was clearly now very close in and my line was over one of the branches, I could see the end of the branch pulling underwater. I maintained the pressure and put the rod tip under the water, hoping the branch would sink down with



the weight and pressure holding on the carp and it would flick off the end.

Unfortunately, it was a lot further along than I thought and it was looking like it would be time for a wade. I ended along the margins, holding the rod tip out as far as possible, but the carp shed the hook.

I was now attached to the tree and needed to get the rig back. I managed to get the lead to slide down the line, I grabbed that, but it was clearly obvious it was quite deep under there and it would be necessary to pull for a break. The weakest point was the hook link material and which is where it parted company with the tree. With a new hook link sorted and cast back out. It was time to reflect and see where or how I could have handled that situation

better and got the carp to the net. It did feel quite a lump.

Sinking the rod tip early would have been an option, but would I have managed it before it clipped the branches? I was not really sure about it. I think due to the boulder and the angle of the line, even if I had walked back towards my rods and along the bank sinking the tip, it was probably a done deal in the carp's favour.

You can only take this information on board and when my next fish tries that move on me, I will be a little more prepared.

I had a single bleep at 0630, which was actually perfect timing for me to pack up and avoid the rain. I'd promised my family I would be home early today, I was a bit damp, but most things were pretty dry.

Ian ended up with 3 takes, unfortunately losing one to a hook pull, but landed a 24 lber early this morning and was staying on until this afternoon to pack away in the sunshine, lucky man.

Until next time.

*Richard*





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# Keeping Consistent in Winter



**By Andy Lill**

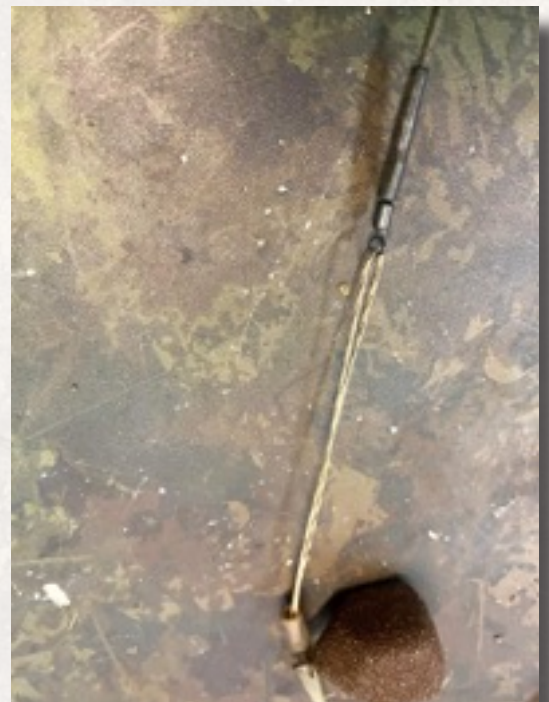
For me the colder months are brilliant. I love them and the challenge of catching those fantastic winter, carp. Why do I love it so much? I will often have my chosen winter venues to myself which really takes the pressure off. I can spend a lot of time on location rather than piling into a likely peg as two more cars have just pulled up. I really enjoy trying to unlock the code which in most cases is possible. The rules don't change that much really, and I have often found we are engineers of our own downfall sometimes massively over complicating our approach.

The venues I choose is day ticket relatively small 3-4-acre lake I wouldn't go much past 6-7 acres in winter with the odd exception of a couple of prolific

reservoirs. For me I simply want to get a run or two. I'm not focussed on the lake record or beasts from the deep. That is hard enough without the cold-water challenges. Location, my starting point is always the shallower water I avoid the deepest water which if you know the water out can be a big help in narrowing down your options quickly. I aim for around 3-4 ft but equally as happy fishing in 2ft if the situation requires. The water I fish is consistent around the margins with a plethora of snags, overhanging trees and weed beds. I will often use the silvers to guide me if no carp are giving the game away any fish activity in the margins is enough for me. I only fish the

late mornings and off at dark. In winter believing this gives me the best feeding window available. If the suns out I will look to see where it is most concentrated on the water if the depth and everything else fits that will be my spot.

I've got my spots now for the tackle setup that for me gives the best bite indication possible for the colder months when carp can be very lethargic and will not always hit the lead and bolt off. To start with set up your buzzers so





if you across into snags or dense weed and vegetation (yes it can still be there in winter). The hook link for

difference. I love the Nutrabaits range and firmly believe it to be the best quality money can buy, it is total confidence in a bag. I fish the BFM all year round and had my best winter ever in 2021 on it. Utilising heavily glugged hook baits (a year in advance at least with bait soak complex) and small stockings of crushed boilies. The hook bait tends to be balanced with a popup working on the theory the carp don't really like to put much effort in, so lets

your tips are as high as possible then when your fishing keep your eyes glued to them. I had many fish hooked before the buzzers has detected it using this simple tweak. On the basis that the fish are less likely to blaze off into the sunset when the hook is detected I use the pully rig which not only amplifies detection at a rate of 2:1 but forces the fish to do something about it as the lead begins to move away from them. The caveat to this is your hook must be 100% sharp if your unsure tie a fresh rig. Ensure your lines are tight and locked up

me is fairly but not completely stiff with a supple hair.

Now onto the final piece of the jigsaw? Bait! Important at any time of the year but in cold water it is the





make it slightly easier to get that baited rig picked up with ease. I soak everything to death in the most soluble liquids, we need maximum leakage as quickly as possible to get the sleepy carp a little bit agitated or curious as to what this amazing mouthful is? I fish for a bite and don't believe heavy baiting is an advantage in most cases for my style of fishing. However, there are several new items landing from Nutrabaits that will aid us? Namely the Solubles range which is design to

break down very rapidly. In winter this is a true edge and to get them operating even quicker. Add further liquids but only to the ones going into the lake

immediately or you will have an expensive bag of soup. Also split (not crush) them in your PVA, your spot is piling out attractors instantly. A great advantage for the short session.

Another fantastic liquid to add are the Nutra and Multimino range of high-quality amino acids.

Thank you very much hope I have not bored you too much. Have a fantastic winter campaign hope you bag a few!

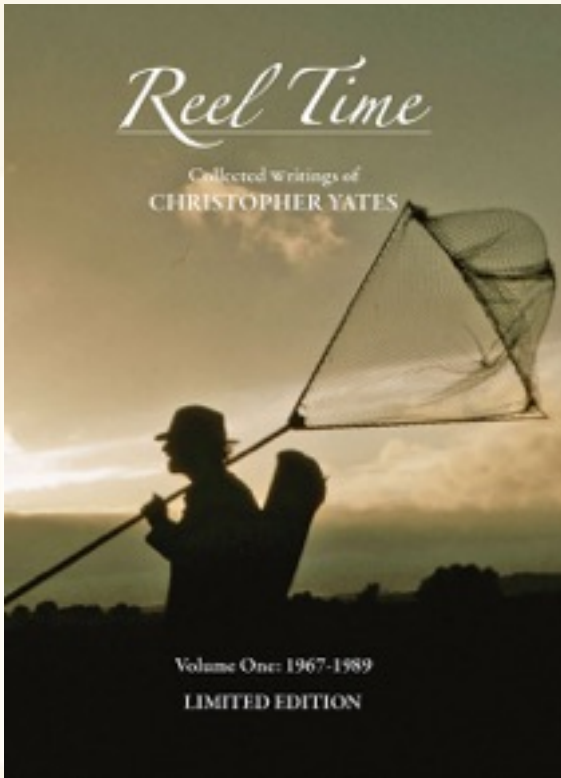
Regards

Andy Lill



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*Challenge Accepted*  
*by AJ Spooner*



For many of us being able to fish regularly is a challenge itself. Meaning the time, we do manage to spend on the bank precious and very much needed, rather than making it a campaign and a chance to target that certain fish.

Whilst you may think working on a fishery would allow you to fish more, I find that with family and work commitments, my fishing is very much grabbing the odd night or day sessions wherever I can. So, with this in mind and after a conversation with Neil Spooner at the end of 2021, I decided to set myself a challenge for 2022 and it was to catch a carp in each calendar month of the year for 2022.

The challenge started (as expected) in January and with one of the members at Churchgate Lakes fishing to celebrate his birthday, I took the opportunity to join him for an overnight session between work. Considering it was a very cold January night, I remained confident with my tactics, which was a short pva rig with a Cold Water Green Beast 12mm Yellow Pop Up, medusa style on the hair. In the solid bag itself I had a mix of Cold Water Green Beast stick mix, pellet,

and maggots.

I was off to the perfect start and was rewarded with a beautiful common and whilst it was not the biggest in the complex, it will be remembered for a very unusual reason. Not only was it my first fish of the challenge and my first fish out of the middle lake. What was even more impressive, only 30 minutes earlier I was photographing the same fish for Jodi the owner of Churchgate Lakes who had caught it in the swim next to me.

I had so much hope in **February** starting with a bang, I was now





only one fish for Jamie, but the morning brought new hope with a smaller carp early on. Strangely it went quiet after that, but just after lunch we had a flurry of carp meaning February was now complete and I now looked forward to March with extra confidence and the new Take 4 wafers in my armoury.

getting the opportunity to try DT Baits newly released Cold Water Green Beast Take 4 wafers and it also started with a rare occasion to fish with Neil whilst he was filming Spooners Vlog on the Top lake at Churchgate Lakes. However, with a part frozen lake, sadly it was not to be.

With a day off later in the month and having had success on the middle lake in January, I opted to fish the same swim as before. Same tactics with the solid bag approach, however this time the hook bait was the Orange flavour Take 4 wafers. With it being half term, I was joined by my son Jamie who tends to show me up and catch more than me. He met me after work and the night was quiet with

With lots of birthdays falling in **March** and us experiencing some extreme winds and weather forecasts, I found myself only managing to get on the bank once and this was not ideal as it was an overnight session in between work. This time I headed for the bottom lake at Churchgate lakes. As always, I favoured my trusted solid bag with Cold Water Green Beast Orange Take 4 wafer and in the bag a mix of pellet and stick mix. However, with it raining I opted to change one of the rods to a Combi rig with a Cold Water Green Beast boosted hook bait topped with half an Orange Take 4 wafer. Whilst my first one came from the changed rig choice; the other three that night all came off the trusted



bags.

In **April** we planned a Churchgate Lakes team social and not having had a fish out of the Top lake yet this year, which is where we headed.

After an uneventful night and with just over an hour before I had to be back at work, I decided to re do my solid bag with a fresh orange bait from the CWGB Take 4 wafter range, I also took the decision to move spots. It paid off and within just 10 minutes, I was rewarded with an old warrior of a mirror.

My confidence was high and with no one else coming in that swim for that day or the following day, I decided I would head back up that evening once I finished work. It was certainly worth it with another three fish caught, one of which was one of the new scaly carp which had recently been put in.

They say when it is not broken do not try and fix it. Solid bags have always been a huge part of my fishing but since using the Cold Water Green Beast Orange Take 4, I have seen my confidence and catch

rate increase.

With spawning at the beginning of June, I found myself not being able to get out until nearer the end of the month and with a blank on my only planned session, I was now into the last couple of days. With no further plans or time to get another session in and armed with a new bait. I thought I would take advantage of a quiet lake and fish my lunch break. I knew the CWGB Take 4 pop ups would be a winner straight away, especially taking into consideration their size, the way I fish and the confidence I already had in Cold Water Green Beast and the Take 4 Wafers. Within my hours lunch I had the pleasure of catching the largest ghostie in the lake. It is also one I had been watching over the



year and had ear marked as one I certainly wanted, so was very welcome for many reasons.

We had planned a social after work to get some marketing shots completed and fishing was there to enjoy in between. However, with the search of my July Carp, I had other plans and slipped my first carp in the net quite quickly.

What happened next was either silly or generous on my behalf. I informed the other guy's fishing what I had caught on and soon enough they both changed over and started catching too. Would I have had more than two if I had not of told them? Who would know; but on a positive note, more people got to witness first-hand the results of

DT Baits.

Between the three of us it finished with us having eight carp and a grassy all caught with the Orange CWGB Wafter.

I certainly have a favourite in the CWGB Wafers, but with them all being based on the CWGB I am sure as the seasons change, each colour will help me catch soon enough.

With a day off in August and it being just me and my son, there was only one thing to do and as it had been a while since we had fished together, I gave him the choice of lakes and off to Blasford Hill we went.

With two rods on my trusted solid bag with CWGB Orange wafter and Pop up, I decided to arm the other

rod with N- Blend on a Combi rig. After just over an hour this rod went off and it was the perfect start.

Sadly, that was it and the swim went quiet, with us only fishing the day we were on our toes and moved to signs of fish on the opposite bank. Whilst in the new swim we noticed a lot of strong



signs of fish a few swims down, so once again we were on our toes. This was a perfect move and proof that minutes in the right swim is better than hours in the wrong swim. After just 15 minutes my son Jamie, who had now adopted my combi rig with N blend hook bait, was playing an incredibly special fish which weighed in at 31lb 1 oz. Although shocked and excited, whilst the fish rested, he was getting the rod back out. Again within 30 mins he was reeling in a beautiful two tone common. All fish caught with an N- Blend boilie as a bottom bait on a combi rig and certainly a day session to remember.

**September** had not been truly kind with a couple of blanks, so with the DT Social planned nearer the end of the month, the pressure was on. What a challenging but unforgettable weekend the social turned out to be. My first DT Baits Social, which not only resulted in me meeting many of the team members since

joining the team in August, but also it gave me the opportunity to settle an old score.

Berners Hall is somewhere I have fished a few times before and walked away without catching. So, as we got to Lunchtime on the Sunday (48 hours into the 60 hours), once again I started to question myself, rigs etc. So, to rest my swim and take myself away from the additional pressure I was putting myself under, I took a rod and fished one of the smaller lakes. As I returned, I put the same three rigs on the same spots with the same lose feed surrounding them and within an hour my left hand rod screamed into action. I must say I have never been so happy to land a carp, but





the odd liner and with the alarm due to go off for me to get up for work, I was really pleased to hear the bite alarm first.

As expected, it came from the spot, I was confident on and as always on my trusted method of Cold Water Green Beast Orange Take 4

Wafter in a solid bag

It is now **November** and my first month being able to fish a weekend, with members who have become particularly good friends, my son and I decided to head to Churchgate Lakes. It was remarkably busy and sadly ended in a blank. However, the following weekend I found myself with some free time, so once again we both headed back to Churchgate. This time we were more successful and whilst it was only a smaller fish, it was a carp none the less. This time the N Blend with freebies generously coated in the DNA was the downfall for this capture.

more importantly learnt a valuable lesson. Always be confident in your ability and if you have rigs that have worked previously, bait that is consistently catching; never doubt yourself and keep going.

Sadly, October saw my last month working at Churchgate Lakes. So, we planned one final social between work and I was lucky enough to be in a swim I knew very well. Knowing there was one spot that I was confident in, I proceeded with getting two rods on that spot. Margins have been fishing well recently so the third rod went close in.

The night was incredibly quiet with



I always knew as the year went on, that **December** would be one of the tougher months, however what I was not expecting was a big freeze that made it impossible to fish local lakes for two weekends. It was now Christmas week, and I was leaving it right until last minute, with a few days booked at Woodlake's Fisheries with the family in between Christmas and New Year. Although the cabin was situated on one of the lakes, I had the option to fish any of the five lakes situated at the Fisheries, which prior to arriving I knew to get my December carp I most likely would need to take full advantage of. Although my approach and bait choice filled

me with confidence, I always had that nagging feeling that the lakes had only been defrosted for a week and temperatures were still lower than normal for the time of year.

On arrival I was happy with my location with options to fish either open water or against snags, so I set the rods out trying and sat back in the comfort of the Log cabin. Frustratingly the first day went by with no signs of fish or a fish caught and having been spoilt with the comfort of being in the Log Cabin, the thought of trying the other lakes out in the rain and wind was not an option on the second day. The weather was forecasted better for the third day, so I agreed with family that if I had not caught by the time



we needed to check out I would try my luck on the other lakes then. Thankfully for them early on the 3rd day, I had a bream like take which strangely resulted in a low twenty common. It was caught on the rod which was in open water. DT test bait with a small white CWGB pop up, fished as a snowman on a combi rig.

## Challenge complete.

At times it felt like I had bitten off more than I could chew, especially when I was starring a blank in the eyes with only 2 days left, but actually as I look back on my year. It does not matter the size, how many times I was out or even how many blanks I had. What matters the most is the fact, the challenge worked.

I was on the bank doing what I love.

As I look forward to next year and setting myself a new challenge, I have been incredibly lucky to be invited to be an ambassador for Swimbooker, part of the role will be to visit the lakes which are using

their platform. This is the perfect opportunity to spend some time on the bank using DT Baits, which I love and have the utmost confidence in whilst supporting the various fisheries with any questions or queries on Swimbooker. The question is how many different venues can I catch a carp from?

Until next time, tight lines

A.J.



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# Reviews

*Featuring -*

**NASH HEATED BLANKET - MARK CARPER**

**TITAN POWER BANK - BRIAN DIXON**

**FISHGUARD FX SECURITY - MARK CARPER**

**HOMEMADE DOG BISCUITS - ANTHONY  
WOOD**



# Nash Heated Blanket



**Review by  
Mark Carper**

This is the second time the Nash 'Heated Blanket' has been reviewed in our pages, but for good reason....

... with the freezing temperatures hitting the UK recently and the very tragic news of an angler passing-away whilst in his Bivvy with the suspected cause being due to Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) poisoning and all the reminders doing the rounds on Social Media warning about the dangers of using any sort of fuel burning appliance (even a Candle produces CO<sub>2</sub>) inside a closed or at least a not 'well-ventilated' Bivvy, I thought another review of this product was timely...

Yes, there are alternatives to any form of 'Heating' system, such as high-quality insulated clothing, using the layering system, thermals etc. etc. and as someone that spent over ten years Winter Mountaineering, I know all about what to wear and it seems that some of the gear has found itself well placed in the Fishing marketplace, albeit under different branding, but there are plenty of options available.

There are also the advances in 'Sleeping Bags' and of course 'Sleep Systems', which can cope with some serious cold weather and then there are the Bivvies themselves with new materials, Inner Skins, Outer Wraps, Vapour Shields, heavy Duty Ground Sheets etc. etc. but the one thing none of these manage to do is apparently the one thing we want and that is "Heat the Space" around us.. and that is where the danger becomes high-level...!!!



## CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) POISONING



I'm not going to lecture about CO<sub>2</sub> and neither am I going to explain the dangers of using any form of flame inside a Highly Flammable bit of Fabric, surrounded by other highly flammable fabrics.... The 'Flame' bit also goes for the use of a BBQ inside a closed or poorly ventilated Bivvy too as I know

the Cobb is a popular one for Carp Anglers and due to the fact it has a 'cool touch' base it could easily be used or moved inside the Bivvy... even smouldering BBQ's can produce high levels of CO<sub>2</sub> if the Oxygen levels are low, as can any Fossil Fuel or Wood.....

...and yes, you could simply turn to the tried and trusted method of the good old 'Hot Water Bottle', of which, a few 'Carpy' versions appear to have hit the market but because they are a Carp Brand, they are at ridiculous prices too.

My issue with a Hot Water Bottle, aside from the fact you have to fill it with a boiling liquid and then 'move it around' in the bag to get the best from it, is the fact that to fill it, you need to boil the Kettle... On your Stove, which invariably means, if the weather is cold (logically it will be, otherwise why do you need the Hot Water Bottle in the first place...?) you will be tempted to use the stove, 'inside' the bivvy and therefore, you are at risk from the multiple dangers this brings...!!!

However, the 'Heated Blanket' eliminates these dangers from the off...! Now, even the Heated Blanket is not without a risk due to the fact that you need a Power Supply to run it and of course any Power Supply has the potential to fail and cause a fire, but you could say the same about your Mobile, Tablet, Laptop, Boat Battery, Deeper etc. etc. All you can really do is try to 'Lower the Risk' and a Power Pack operating a heated Blanket is safer than using your Stove in your Bivvy to keep warm....

That all said, just how good is the Nash Heated Blanket... well, it is extremely good...!

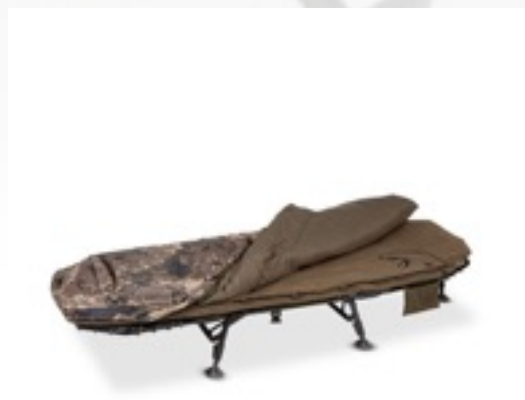
I have the one that is specific to the Nash Tackle 'Indulgence MF60 SS4 Five Season Standard' Bed Chair and it uses the Loop & Toggle system to attach to the bottom of the Sleep System thus preventing it from moving about or twisting when you turn...!

The blanket is thin and very lightweight and a perfect fit, which means it can be left in-place permanently and does not affect the folding of the Bed Chair or adversely increase the weight... The SS4 is a bulky unit anyway, but that's what the Power Barrow is for...

Since fitting it, I have left the blanket in place but it could easily be removed ready for the warmer weather if you so prefer.

I have used the blanket on several occasion now and can say with confidence, it was worth the investment and the 'heating' options have been given thought and are designed well, especially Mode 1, which is perfect for when you have been out of the bed to sort a rod, or play a fish etc. in the early hours and here's why...

... imagine the scene.... you have just landed your quarry (or more likely that bloody Bream..!), done the weigh-in, the pictures and slipped it back in the freezing temperatures of the early hours and you are going to get your rod back on the spot as that's where the new PB will come from and you suddenly remember "I have a Nash Tackle Heated Blanket".. so you duck in to your Bivvy, hit the button 'Mode 1' and go and sort that rod, re-bait, send the RT4 out on Auto-Pilot and give yourself a pat on the back for a job well done....



.... you then get yourself ready to get back in the bed and BOOM... your feet slip in to the warmth of the bag followed by your mid-section and everything is immediately 'toastie' again, like you never left the bag...! Yep, sounds proper "soft" doesn't it, but at least you are warming up instantly and in the knowledge that you are safe to fall asleep as the Heated Blanket slowly reduces temperature until after two-hours, it shuts itself off.... Mode 1 was made for those occasions...!!!!

There are Four 'Modes' in total but I find that Mode 1 is the perfect setting as it means you can safely fall asleep and you don't 'overheat'... admittedly, it doesn't warm the air around you and you still get a cold face, although I do tend to cover my head with the bag as it is well designed to do this, but having warm feet makes a huge difference to being comfortable and I cannot sleep with sock on (don't ask me why) so even in minus temperatures, the Blanket serves me well... and as the heated area, is across the full width of the bag, there are no 'Cold Spots'... Bliss..!!

Even if you forgot to turn the blanket on when getting in the bed, the heat-up time is very quick and within a couple of minutes you feel the difference, but Mode 2 is best suited to this as it is the 'Rapid' Heat mode, although it does not turn off automatically like Mode 1.



The 'Heat' sections of the blanket appear to be at the foot area and extend up about 35cm and then from the 'Hip' area (halfway up the bed on mine) up to your Shoulders... I have found that the 'Gap' around the thigh area keeps you much more comfortable as this would be a high-pressure area and you would soon over-heat.. either that, or my Blanket is faulty...!! HAHAHA...

(it isn't faulty!)

I must mention that the blanket itself is made of a soft 'peach-skin' material, which if you lay on it directly, does slightly hinder your movement inside the bag, however, I have always used the 'Mattress Sheet' for my system and the Heated Blanket sits underneath this so movement is not an issue... it also helps keep the blanket and the mattress clean.

Another noteworthy point is that the Blanket must run from a Power Pack that has a 'Cigarette Lighter' Output although you can purchase a third-party 'USB to Cigarette Lighter Adaptor' which will step-up the voltage from 5v to 12v and these are relatively low cost at around £7.00 from Amazon....

...and the Power Pack needs to have a high as possible mAh Capacity. The Nash published run-time figures are based on a fully charged 77,580mAh Power Pack. So if you have half the capacity, you will get less than half the quoted times.

I already owned and used a PowaPacs Atom Pro which has the Cigarette Lighter output in-built and a capacity of 78,000mAh 312Wh and 26Ah@12v, which is perfect for running the Heated Blanket for about three days on the bank if used for around four hours per day at the maximum setting, which I have never had to do.. in fact, even on the Mode 1 setting, I found I would turn it off myself after just thirty-minutes and the heat last long enough to fall asleep.... and that was with the Bivvy Door wide open too...



Overall, I have found the blanket to be extremely reliable and useful and I will admit that during a very wet and chilly night over in France in 'September' I did use it for thirty-minutes after answering a call of nature in the early hours.... I can hear the shouts now of "Man Up" and "You Wimp" or worse but in truth, I never fish without a Groundsheet, even in the height of Summer and even then, I use one of the 'Bespoke Angling Supplies' Bivvy Mats (two if I am in the Nash Block House) and I like my home comforts... so if you are a true warrior type Carp Angler that is happy sat under a Poncho in -15°C, then I would guess this Heated Blanket isn't for you... but if you like being warm in your bed and more over being 'SAFE' this could well be for you..?!

There are other manufacturers offering other 'heated' bag/blanket options and this was not written as a comparison, just the facts of the one I have used since March last year...



The Nash Tackle Heated Blanket has upped the bankside comfort level for me and has added little in the way of inconvenience or weight.

All the best...Mark Carper  
Instagram: [@mark\\_carper257](https://www.instagram.com/mark_carper257)

Tech Specs....

**POWAPACS**®  
*Power Your Adventure*

### Mode 1 Timed Heating

Fast warm up and then slowly reducing heat over a 2-hour period before automatically switching off.

### Mode 2 Rapid Heating

Rapid Heating constantly heats the Blanket at 35 Watts  
Guide Run time 14 hours\*

### Mode 3 Sleeping Mode High

Sleeping Mode High constantly heats the Blanket at 31 Watts  
Guide run time 16.5 hours\*

### Mode 4 Sleeping Mode Low

Sleeping Mode Low constantly heats the Blanket at 29 Watts  
Guide run time 17 hours\*

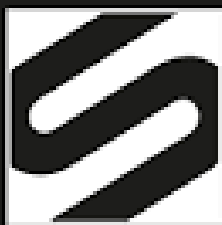
\* Using a fully charged 77,580mA/h Power Pack







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**TITAN POWER+ POWERBANK  
ON THE BANK REVIEW  
BY BRIAN DIXON.**



Just like most of us out there in this sport of ours, with long hours at work, family life and other projects to take care of, time to actually go fishing can be at a real premium.

Therefore its not uncommon to see so many anglers getting in “a few hours after work” or a “quick overnighter” or a “cheeky 24”... but when we do these short sessions the last thing we need is to start carrying all the extra gear we normally carry for the longer sessions, like large and sometimes heavy power packs..

When I do a short session, whether it’s a quick overnight on the river or a day session chasing carp I still need to keep my phone charged up at all times... AND NOW I HAVE THE PERFECT ANSWER.

## The Titan Power+ powerbank.

Compact, powerful, durable and robust.

With most of todays phones now carrying the added capability of wireless charging, this unit is an even bigger bonus! The Titan Power+ powerbank gives you the option of connecting to your phone with either a charging cable or if you have wireless charging mobile phone simply pop the



power bank on the table and rest your phone on top of it... and that is it! It doesn't get any easier does it.

Don't let the size fool you either... the power bank will fit in the palm of your hand but packs an amazing 10,000 mAh capacity. It even comes with a kickstand if you wish to stand it up, and the extra added bonus of internal magnets so it locks on to the back of your phone giving you uninterrupted charging.

It features both USB and USB-C charging ports, so what more could you ask for?

Compact enough to fit into the smallest of pockets but powerful enough to keep you charged up when you're out and about.

And to top it off the build quality feels good, very good.

I have one, I have tried it and I give it 5 stars for definite.

Don't just take my word for it though, take a quick look at the website at [www.titanpowerplus.com](http://www.titanpowerplus.com) or you can also find them on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/titanpowerplus/](http://www.facebook.com/titanpowerplus/)

The only thing you need to be aware of though... these units do come from overseas so please allow for an extended delivery time. Other than that, it is a great product and one that definitely has a place in your pocket or rucksack.

Brian.



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# FISHGUARD FX SECURITY SYSTEM - BY MARK CARPER



# FISHGUARD

Back in August 2020, in issue 54, I did a review of a fairly new to market product called the 'Fishguard', which was basically a quickly deployable Security System consisting of some Passive Infra-Red Detectors, and Flood/Courtesy LED Light and a Sounder/Alarm Box, with all items being battery powered and with fully wireless connectivity.....

In simple terms, the system was designed to enable you to secure your fishing spot quickly and conveniently, whether that be in a designated swim area on a busy Day Ticket water or just a patch of ground next to Public Access Lake or River...

After numerous uses since 2020 both here and in France and Belgium, I can safely say it has never let me down and I have total confidence in its reliability and operation... even though it has never been used 'In Anger' so to speak, it has never failed to let me know when someone is approaching my swim, and it is so discreet that even the lads I was fishing with last year in France, did not know I had set it up...

In essence, the sensors trigger the security floodlight and/or a sound alert. If the floodlight is near your rods and bivvy, and the sensors are positioned to detect movement towards them, an intruder will trigger the system, which in turn will switch on the Floodlight or Sounder, or both..!!

It's like a one of those Sensor Security Lights on a house, but with the unique feature that the sensor and the floodlight are not combined and the detection filtering is much greater, leading to little to no 'Unwanted Activations'....

## **In Use**

In the original review, I had not used it 'Bank Side' so to speak, but since then, I have used it on approximately eighteen occasions. I have not



# Reviews

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always needed to use all the Sensors or even the Floodlight or Sounder each time, but regardless of how I have set it up, it has worked with one hundred percent reliability.. I've been fortunate enough not to encounter an 'unwanted visitor' but when anyone has visited, I've always had the 'heads-up' ..!!

For the full review, Read-On.... or to take a look at my demo here...

<https://www.instagram.com/tv/CSPA53RDAoy/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=>

...or visit the website with the link at the end...

A while back I saw the original and first review of this system and it raised a bit of interest with me which was based on two things, firstly, I fish numerous Public Waters in France and secondly, I have 26 years' experience in the 'Electronic Security' industry.

Now, I have never had any issues on the bank with gear going missing, either in the UK or Abroad but I have had 'concerns' at times, due to the nature and places I fish (in France) and just the fact they are open to the Public twenty-four, seven.

That said, I was still 'interested' to learn about the system as the gear sat on my Rod Pod alone is worth upwards of £3500 and I can be up to 20m from the rods at times....but....

...having spent many years in the Electronic Security industry and spent time designing and installing some high-tech kit for both the Military and the Police, including all manner of detection and transmission gear, much of which is still used today, I was sceptical of how reliable the 'Fishgard' would be, or more specifically, how un-reliable it would be by triggering at the wrong times, giving 'False Alarms' or as we liked to call them, "unwanted activations" ..!!



I read about the system and watched the limited information online and decided to give the company a call. I spoke with Dan and fired a few poignant and technical questions at him about Passive Infra-Red and Active Beam Technology etc. and he certainly knew his stuff.

We then arranged for me to have the use of a 'Demo Kit' for a week or two and that was promptly sent out..!

I was sent the 'Full Kit' which comprises of the Fx Control Unit (Receiver), Three Fx Sensors and the Fx Floodlight, all contained in a nice compact and well-padded case.

## Initial Thoughts

The packaging, the bit you throw away, reminded me of the fancy modern packaging that high-end products come in currently, from Phones to Earphones etc. and was well designed and well made.... I know you just 'bin it' normally, but it made me think that if the packaging was this good, how good was the actual product..?!

On opening the case, I wasn't disappointed, and the units 'looked' robust and well made, before even touching them.

The look instantly reminded me of the kit I had used in the past for numerous external installations of detection equipment to secure perimeters from airfields to car sales forecourts and for both Civvy and Military sites...a good start...!

A clear and detailed set of instructions were included, along with a few small



ancillary bits, which included a strange looking round bit of plastic, some rectangular bits of plastic and some 'rubber bands'...!

Being a 'man' I skipped the instruction manual and proceeded to attempt to open one of the Fx Sensors...To my delight this was extremely easy to figure out and I soon had the two 'AA' batteries installed (No Batteries are supplied with the units, so for the full set up you will require fourteen good quality 'Alkaline' batteries. I used Duracell Ultra).

The battery compartment was simple to remove from the unit, in fact, they are simple to remove from all the units and are extremely 'well fitting' and secure once back in the units.

They have an excellent 'Rubber Seal' and you can instantly tell that the 'weatherproofing' is of the highest quality. Note I said 'Weatherproof' and not 'Waterproof'...there is a difference....Do not Submerge them...!

### **Batteries**

Each Fx Sensor requires two 'AA' Batteries and the Fx Control unit and Fx Floodlight require four each.

The battery compartment for the Fx Sensors and the Fx Floodlight open in the same way, which is via a 'Twist-Lock' on the bottom of the unit that is easy to do by hand.

The Fx Control Unit differs in that it has a 'Quarter Turn' screw lock in its' base, which a large flat-blade screwdriver or indeed a 20p coin will remove nicely, however, that is where the 'small round piece of plastic' comes in to play...it is for loosening and tightening the screw to get at the battery holder...Clever...!!



The batteries all fit very tightly and you can feel they are a good solid connection, which again, gives no doubt as to the overall quality of the products.

## Getting Going

With all the batteries installed, and still refusing to look at the instructions, I switched the Fx Control Unit on...Turned on one of the Fx Sensors and....nothing...nothing at all..!

Time to read the instructions...which, if I had done that first, I would have known that there was a slight delay, as the Fx Sensor adjusted itself to the environment...denoted by the flashing and then 'steady' LED light on the Controller..

A few seconds later and I was greeted with the sound of a very serious sounding and annoyed "Growling Dog" sound emitting from the Fx Controller.. Brilliant..!!

On normal 'switch-on' you do not get this but I had the Fx Sensor facing me.

I promptly went through the 'sound outputs' available from the Controller and after each change, I simply walked in front of the Sensor.... each activation gave me either a;

**'Door Bell Chime'**

**'Dog Growl'**

**'Dog Bark'**

**'Owl Hoot'**

All the sounds are volume adjustable and each activation also illuminates the corresponding Sensor LED on the Controller. Initially the LED will rapidly Flash for about five seconds and then goes 'solid' for a further seven seconds, giving plenty of time to note which Sensor triggered if you are using more than one.

That as they say, “was that”, the system was up and running. I quickly positioned the other two Sensors around my garden and proceeded to walk-test them one by one. Each one triggered as expected and the Controller did its thing...excellent...!

### **Fx Floodlight**

Once I had the units all deployed, I turned on the Floodlight and was surprised just how bright it was (I did this initially in daylight) and was pleased to see it could actually be ‘dimmed’ if required.

On triggering one of the Sensors, the Floodlight activation is instant. When you first turn it on, it does light up for two seconds to show it is working, so be mindful not to looking directly at it, or you will have numerous spots before your eyes for a good while afterwards...!

When triggered by a Sensor, the Floodlight remains on for approximately fifteen seconds, which is plenty of time to spook any would be ‘trespasser’. Just don’t position the Floodlight facing your Bivvy as it will simply ‘blind you’...!!

The other feature on the Floodlight, and a very nice touch is the inclusion of some ‘Courtesy’ or ‘Ambient’ lights situated underneath the Floodlight unit, so as to only illuminate the ground.

These are not activated by the Fx Sensors, they actually have their own Detection units. Four in total positioned on each side of the Floodlight and facing outwards, not downwards.

These are designed to detect you moving around in your swim area and give a nice light to safely move about the area. Again, these have dimmable adjustment but are by no means as powerful as the Floodlight. I normally carry a ‘Swim Light’ that sits outside my bivvy and turns on as I walk out towards my rods, but this unit will do that role perfectly, even without the security side being operational.

Staying on for around thirty seconds after an activation and with a detection range of approximately three metres, it works perfectly.

My initial thought was that it was a nice touch, and worked very well but I only needed detection on two sides and not four..?!!

Fishgard have thought of that and cue the 'Elastic Bands and Bits of Plastic' I mentioned at the start...

The 'Elastic Band' is actually a heavy duty piece of rubber that can be placed over and around the Floodlight, below the level of the 'Sensors' and the 'Plastic Rectangles' are then trapped between the Unit and the Rubber and are used to 'Blank Off' the Detectors that you do not require.

The band can be left in place and the plastics can be moved accordingly to either cover or expose the Sensors on all four sides and even the bands have been purposely designed with a 'cut out' or 'thinner edge' so as not to block the sensor inadvertently with the band left on. Another indication that the product is very well thought out.

## Testing

As I have already said, I have an extensive background in both the design and implementation of detection devices and, me being me, I was determined to get 'Unwanted Activations' from the units...and I did..!!

Admittedly, I had to position an Fx Sensor looking directly at moving foliage at a range of 45cm, which, obviously, you would not do in a 'live' situation and you are warned about in



the instructions too. At one point, when the foliage stopped moving and I walked behind it, the Sensor actually detected me and triggered the Alarm...Impressive..!!

Having satisfied myself that the units were sufficiently developed so as not to trigger at the slightest thing, I went about positioning them so that my Cockapoo, could walk past without triggering the units but my GSD couldn't...It lead to a very interesting few hours in the garden as I had the dogs racing up and down and the GSD getting rather agitated at a Growling Dog he could not find..!!

The upshot, not one unwanted activation...Very Impressive..!

I then left the Units in situ for the rest of the day and overnight and I was not woken once during the night, even though we had a slight rain shower and my garden does have numerous plant tubs and shrubs that were in-view of the Fx Sensors. The closest being at about three metres. With the Sensor range of just over six metres (although as is standard for any detection units employing this type of Infra-Red technology, the range can be affected by both extreme brightness and temperature, but that is why they are very efficient at night).

My final test, in the garden was to subject one of the Fx Sensors to the 'Rain Test'..! For this I simply put the garden hose on 'Shower' and positioned it above the sensor at about two metres. I then left it for thirty minutes and again...not one single 'Unwanted Activation' but it triggered each time I, or the GSD (which was soaking wet at this stage, walked past...Very, Very Impressive..! (I did get it to trigger a few times if I pointed the hose head closer and more 'towards' the unit as opposed to on top of it, but that is not a fair representation of rain fall...unless you are in Wales..?!!

The other point to note, was after drying the unit off, I opened the Battery Compartment and it was perfectly dry, as should be expected.

In terms of Battery Life, mine is still running on the same batteries I installed from new with no issues and each unit gives early warning of a 'Low Battery' by the intermittent flashing of the LED.

## Approximate Battery Life

Fx Controller – 70 hours  
Fx Floodlight – 80 hours  
Fx Sensor – 500 hours

The Battery life would see me through a full weeks fishing without the need to change the batteries.

## Conclusion

In all the tests I have done and in 'Real-Life Use', which included some unfair ones, the whole setup has performed extremely well.

I am very confident to deploy the system in a live situation and I definitely rest easy knowing that 'Any' visitors would be announced and/or deterred and at least I would be fore warned of their presence. I am also confident that only 'Human' visitors are announced and not the usual vermin we encounter on the bank and by that I mean rats, mice and such like as the height of the units is set to avoid these. In fact, you can set the Sensors high enough so that if you have a 'Carp Dog' with you and your pal can wonder around your swim area freely and not activate the units if positioned correctly...!

I know this is not going to be for everyone and the cost will put people off or it will be dismissed as a gimmick or another useless 'Carp Product' full of 'Carp Tax' and designed to "Catch the Angler" Blah, Blah, Blah....and then those that have "my Hammer and Machete ready" etc. etc.

...but, for me, it means if someone is sniffing around my 3.5k of gear at the waters edge, at least I won't be asleep while they make off with it.. and during the day, it will simply let me know if I need to pretend to be asleep so as not to have to engage with those that 'want to chat about

bait and rigs'....

In my opinion, the light is a bigger deterrent than the actual noises the unit makes but both combined will certainly take any would be 'No Gooder' (is that even a word..?) by surprise and hopefully make them think twice.... even if they are hell bent on nicking some gear, I would guess they will just try another swim...!

A quality designed and made product that does exactly what it was designed to do.

On the basis of this test and use, instead of sending the Demo-Kit back, I purchased it for my own use.

Obviously, aside from the units themselves, you also need to carry some suitable 'Bank Sticks' to put them on and they need to have suitable height adjustment so as to avoid any 'unwanted activations' (false-alarms is such a nasty word..)

### **Improvements**

Not much really to improve on for me. In a perfect world, I would have all the devices with In-Built Rechargeable Batteries that could be charged via a USB. With almost everything now like this it would save the hassle of remembering to change the batteries or carry spares. Be warned, you cannot use 'AA' rechargeable batteries in the units due to the voltage difference, so they will not power the units correctly.

Although you get a 'Rubber Band' for each Fx Sensor to place over the Visible LED on the rear, which is to stop it being 'obvious' in the dark, I can't help but think it would have been better if the LED went out, say, 10 seconds after the unit was turned on...I have placed a bit of Tape over mine so they are no longer visible...



..and, the Fx Controller gives a 'Visual Signal' if you or someone else, turns off one of the Fx Sensors while the Fx Controller is switched on and although it is highly unlikely that someone could actually get 'behind' the sensor to turn it off without it triggering in the first instance, (provided you have positioned them effectively), it would be good to have an 'Audible' Warning too....an Anti-Theft for the Anti-Theft system, so to speak...!

...and my final thought, the 'Owl Hoot'; it only does one "Hoot"...it should be at least two "Hoots" or a good old "Twit-Twoo"...!

For full details and latest prices visit:

<https://fishguard.fishing/>

or find them on Facebook at - Fishguard Fishing

***This was an independent and non-paid review of the product with no collaboration with the manufacturer.***





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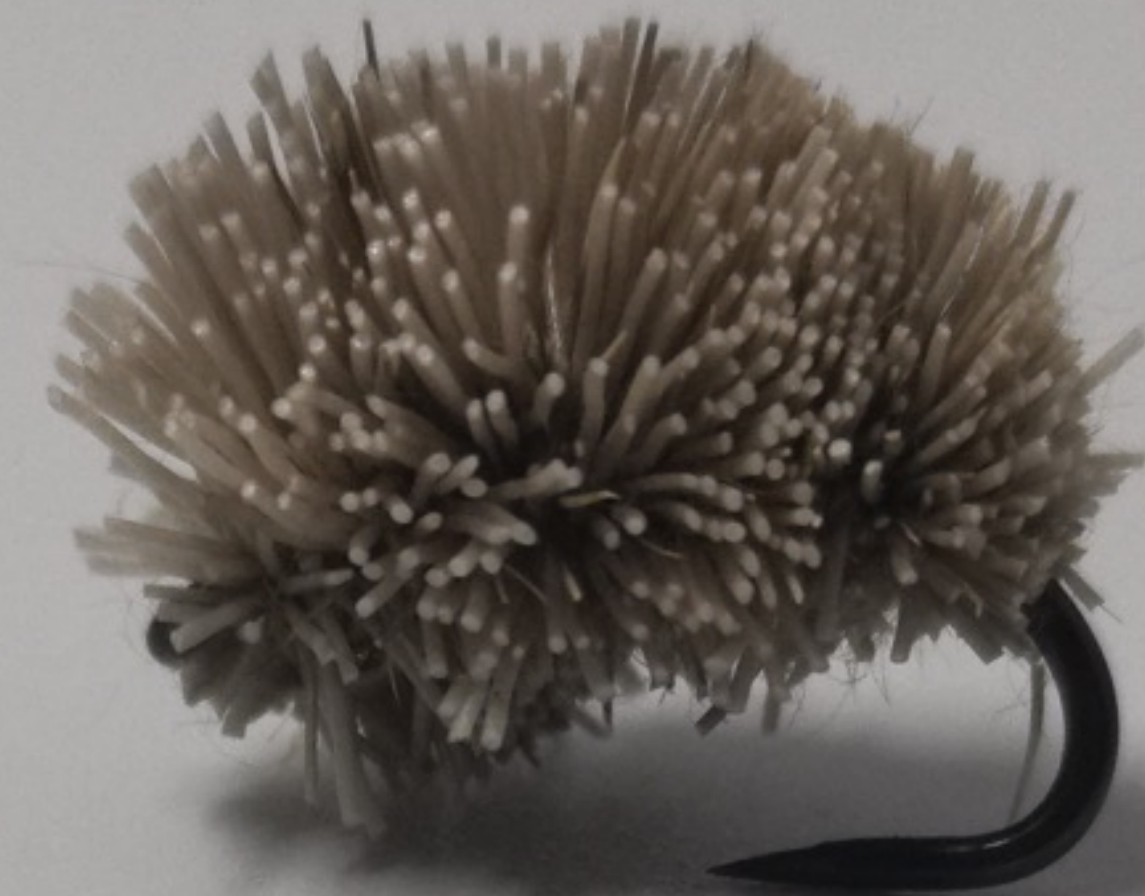
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# **Homemade Artificial Dog Biscuits**

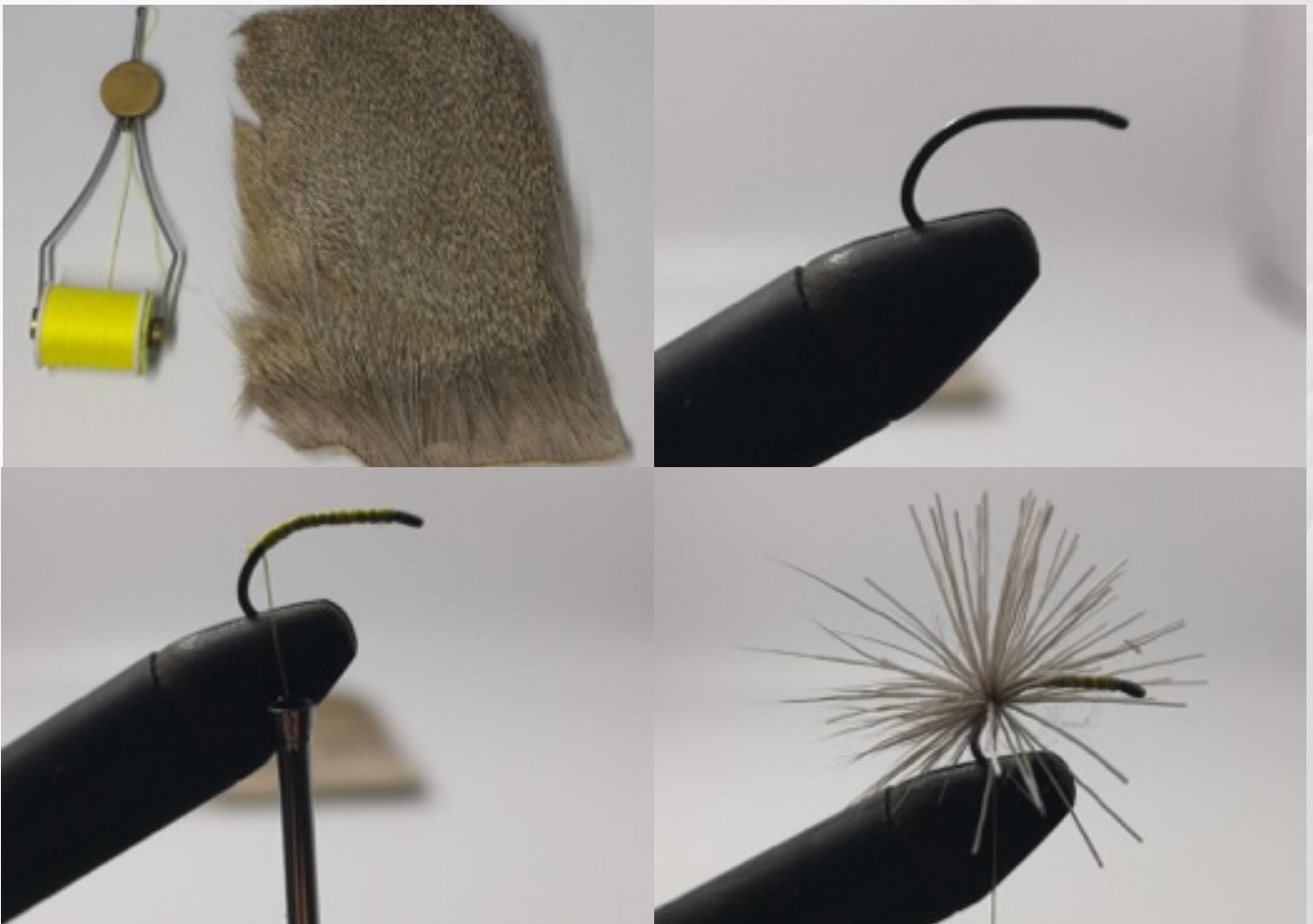


**By Anthony Wood**

Dog biscuits are historically brilliant as carp bait especially something like Pedigree Chum. There are a couple of problems with dog biscuits though and these are storing them (They will eventually go off) and you don't always have the space to keep them on you, getting them on the hook in the first place, some people use superglue and a little line sawed into the dog biscuit but I'm not a huge fan of using superglue in fishing, then there is the fact that the dog biscuit will eventually get soggy and will be susceptible to attacks from small silver fish.

Making your own dog biscuit hookbaits (flies) is a fantastic way to create a bait that you can not only carry around with you but will also give you a hookbait that is resistant to small silver fish, can be reused over and over, can be flavoured and won't get soggy or need replacing.

This is where the review part comes in... I use [www.troutflies.co.uk](http://www.troutflies.co.uk) for coastal deer hair which is used for the body of the dog biscuit, the vice to



hold the hook whilst tying, bobbin holder and also the bobbins of pre-waxed thread used to tie the deer hair onto the hook. The reason I use Troutflies UK is that they have some of the best quality materials I have ever used and on top of that their customer service is absolutely brilliant. I enjoy fly tying (I fly fish as well as carp fish) and I would say that the deer hair dog biscuit fly is probably one of, if not the easiest to tie.

1. Place the hook (I tend to use the Kamazan B980 or B983) into the fly tying vice (you can do it by hand just about but a vice will make it a LOT easier) and clamp it down until it is firmly held in place with the point of the hook just inside the vice.
2. Starting at the tail end of the hook start to wind the pre-waxed thread along the shank of the hook towards the eye, when you reach the eye thread back down the shank to where you began.
3. Pinch some deer hair between your thumb and finger and cut it off the square of hide.
4. Place the middle of the deer hair on the back of the hook shank where your thread is hanging down, wrap the thread around the deer hair a couple of times and then tighten it up and let go of the deer hair wrapping the thread around a few more times.
5. Pull the deer hair back towards the bend of the hook, wrap the thread around the hook four times just in front of the deer hair, repeat part 4 but this time place the middle of the deer hair where you have just done the four wraps in front of the last piece. Repeat until you are at the eye of your hook.





# Catch Reports

*Featuring -*

DT Baits

Castaway PVA

Deception Angling

# Richard Long



**Richard has sent in a report he will not forget!**

**“What can I say..... a birthday forty !!**

**40.6. Fishing a silt channel with Cell crumb and chops with a 12mm salty squid pop up.”**

**Happy birthday Richard**



Team manager Dan Winfield saw a picture of this fish six months ago and set his sights on banking it. With a few hours to burn recently he hit the local club lake and found his target feeding in a marginal bay. Dan lowered his rig and a few handfuls of Supa fruit pellets next to the feeding fish and the rod ripped off moments later.

Friend of DT baits Darren Wallace has had a great season catching some lovely fish and this one is no exception. Darren fishing solid bags of whole and crushed Cold Water Green Beast with matching DNA liquid which saw him bank this cracking dark 31lbs common.







**Steve Fisk is a recent convert to DT baits for good reason he has managed two 40lbs fish in two consecutive sessions on his tricky syndicate. Steve fished Cold Water Green Beast to temp the colossal beasts.**

**Tom Blackmore has managed a number of fish recently on short sessions. Tom's tactic for getting a quick bite at this time of year consists of fishing a mix of crushed Cold Water Green Beast and Supa fruit in PVA bags his hook baits are hand rolled pink Supa fruit wafers**



# 2023



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**Castaway PVA**

**Adam Honeysett**



**Scott Grant**



# Deception

*Angling*

Sam Rogers



Daniel Powell



# Deception

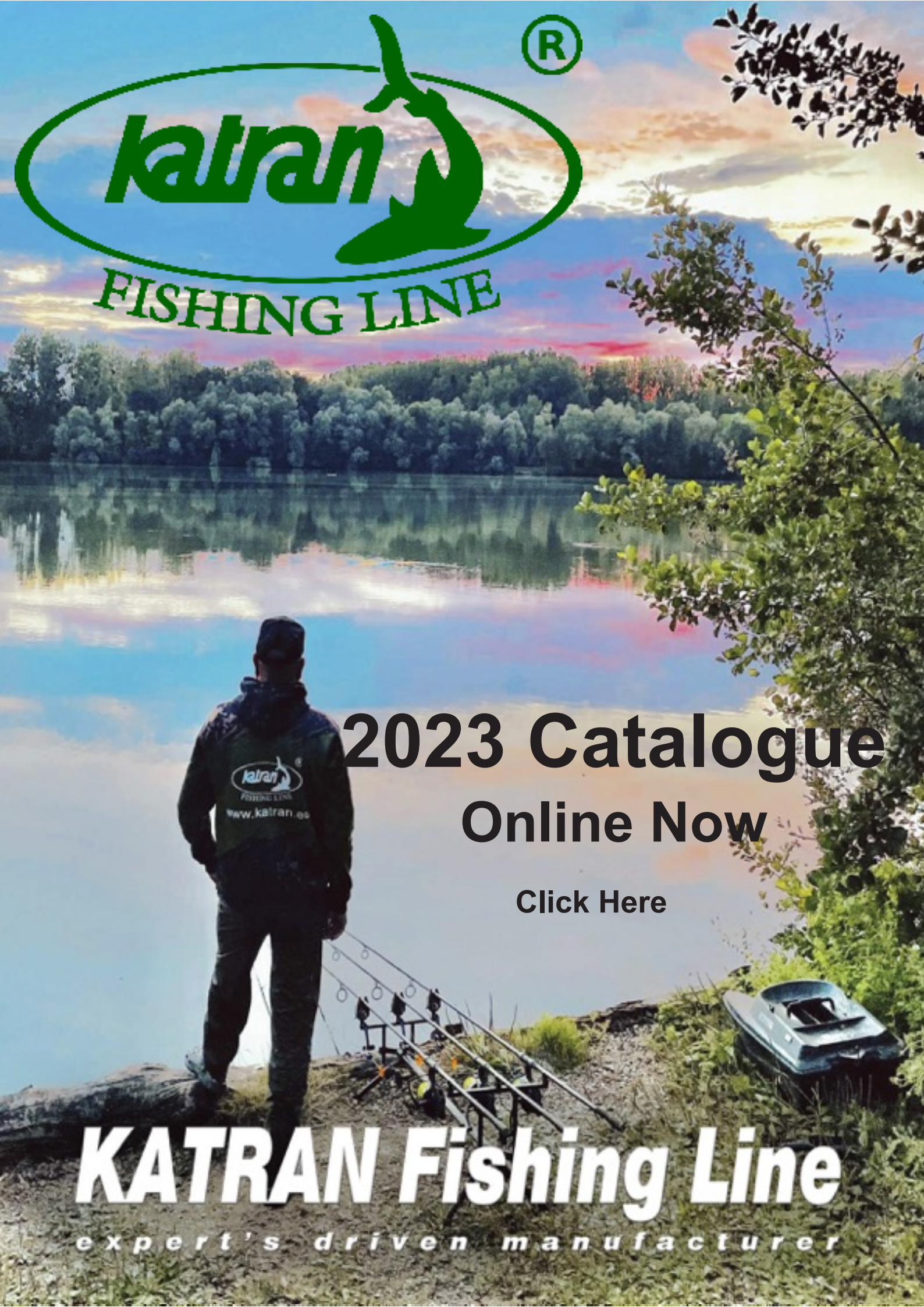
Angling

Daniel Powell



the morning carper





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# **KATRAN Fishing Line**

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**A Beginners Guide**

**to**

**Predator Angling**

**Part 1**

**Featuring Lee Brooks**

### ***From Carping to Predator Angling – By Mark Carper***

From around October time, it's difficult not to notice the influx of pictures on the Social Media pages of 'Carp Anglers' that I follow, that contain, well, not Carp...!!

It appears that the influx is of rather ugly looking fearsome creatures with rows of razor sharp teeth and some of the 'Fish' pictures are not nice either....!!! I'm kidding of course and the pictures I refer to are of 'PIKE' or Zander and as time progresses out of Autumn and into Winter, the pictures seem to get more frequent, with 'Carpy Shots' on the decline....

...add to this the amazing colours and unmistakable stripes of the 'PERCH' and it seems that many Carp Anglers have turned in to 'PREDATOR ANGLERS' almost overnight.

Having witnessed this transformation for many years and especially over the Autumn and Winter months, I thought I would look at why this is, what could possibly compare to sitting for hours and hours in a fully kitted-out bivvy with all the latest 'mod-cons'

both inside and out, blanking and then having to haul tons of gear back to the car...?

So, October 2021, I headed to my local Tackle Shop, sorted a Rod and Reel for less than £100, bought a smaller Landing Net and a few Lures that the owner recommended as being suitable for 'Perch' and I headed to a private section of the Canal that a friend of mine has sole access to.... and Boom... within thirty minutes I had in the net a Fish I identified as a 'Zander'... and it looked bloody scary....!!

Although only about thirteen to fourteen inches long and quite slender, it had the most enormous 'pin-like' Teeth and lots of them... Laying there in my landing net with a 'Jelly' Lure hanging from its mouth, I had no clue what to do, but I was certain I wasn't going to touch it...!!!

After composing myself, I used my 'Carp' Forceps to dislodge the Lure (thankfully, I had crushed the barb on the hook before casting out..!), took a quick picture of it in the net, with the Rod handle and Reel next to it for perspective and returned it via the net, from whence it came...!



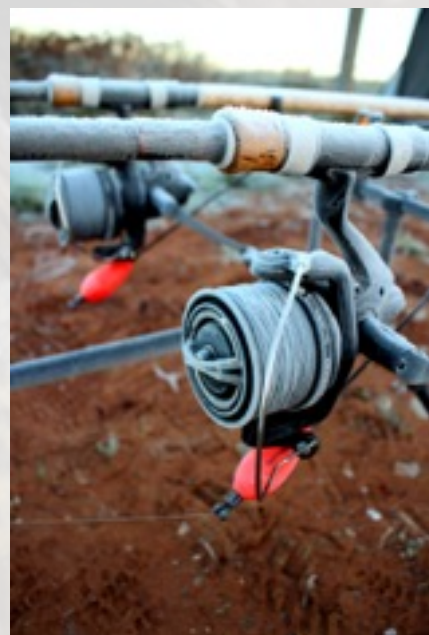
...and that was that. My first attempt to catch a Perch on a Lure had resulted in a something that looked like it would tear my hand off, and probably my face if it got half-a-chance, and I was done. I was finished with Predator Fishing.... or was I...?!

After doing some research, I started to see the appeal of this so called Predator Fishing and also I could sort of understand why my fellow Carp Anglers have a whole other life as they chase these incredible, vicious looking creatures, some of which wouldn't look out of place in a horror movie (and yes, I am talking about the fish again..!)

Looking at the size of some of the Fish, I could see the appeal of catching them and trying, as we do in Carping, to beat your PB for example but after hooking in to a relatively small fish to what I am used to, the buzz I got from the minute it hit the Lure to slipping it in to the net was as good if not better than hooking and playing a Carp. My little Zander hit from nowhere and on my light and very flexible Spinning Rod with its, small Reel loaded with something like 8lb Braid, the fight, although short, was very intense and far removed from

the feeling of playing a Carp.

I could also see that the fact you can carry everything you need on your person, in a small 'Purpose Made' Bag or Rucksack and I had purchased a 'Spro Freestyle' shoulder type bag that was incredibly useful and carried everything I needed and presented it to hand very easily, almost like it was purpose made... (obviously, it was and that was an attempt at humour..). The fact I could go fishing with lightweight and minimalist gear was something I had not experienced for a long time but reminded me of the times I would visit a lake on an evening to do a bit of 'Surface' fishing for the Carp, with just a bucket of Floating Bait, one Rod and a Net and Mat.. simple times.





### Lee Brooks – aka Obsession With Angling

A Carper that I follow on Instagram, Lee Brooks also happens to be a 'Predator Angler' too and looking at his pictures and his YouTube Channel "Obsession With Angling", which is also his Instagram name, he's a pretty successful one at that, having landed some proper Pike lumps (do you call them that..?!) and some decent Carp, but my focus was on the Predator side, so I caught up with him to ask a few pretty basic questions, which as a complete novice, I wanted answering...

**TC:** Welcome Lee and thanks for taking the time to speak with me and being part of the very first "Predator Angling Supplement" in Talking Carp Magazine. Now, you will need to forgive the basic theme of these questions but I am trying to give myself, and other 'Carpers' that are considering having a go at Predator Fishing but no nothing about it, an insight of how to get started.... as you will note, my first dabble ended with me landing a fish that I knew nothing about and actually being put off.... HaHaHa...

**LB:** Hi Mark and no problem at all, everyone has to start somewhere so fire away....

**TC:** What is Predator Fishing in terms of the UK...?

**LB:** Predator Fishing in the UK is typically Fishing for Pike, Perch, Zander, Catfish and Eels. The most Common Predators to Fish for though are Pike and Perch.

**TC:** Do I need a Specific Licence to Predator Fish...?



and lakes would be off limits to anglers.... but I digress and I'm showing my age...  
**Where can I do Predator Fishing...?**

LB: You can Predator Fish on Lakes, Canals, Rivers and Lochs, providing you have the correct ticket or permission. Many of the 'well known' Carp Lakes

in the UK contain some amazing Predator Fish too, but they rarely get fished for...!

LB: No, you can Fish for Predators on your standard Fishing Licence, the same one as you use for your Carp Angling.

**TC: Can I Predator Fishing all year round, or is there a closed season..?**

LB: The Pike Season is traditionally a Winter pursuit, hence why many Carp Anglers hang-up their Carp Rods and grab their Piking Gear between October and March; other Predator Species can be fished for all year round although you have to be mindful of the River Fishing Closed Season which sees fishing on the Rivers stop from the 15th March and start again on the 16th June inclusive.

**TC: The 'Glorious 16th' as it used to be known when even ponds**

**TC: Can I fish more than one rod when Predator Fishing...?**

LB: You can Fish as many rods as you like up to the number covered by you Licence and the venues rules, so it's a personal preference really.

**TC: Are there different Methods of Predator fishing...?**

LB: There are many 'Methods' you can use to Fish for Predators such as using Dead Baits, Live Baits, Maggots and Worms and then we have 'Lures' of all manner of types and styles, it's just about what works best for you and what your

target is.

**TC: Is Carp Tackle suitable for Predator Fishing or do you need Specialist Gear...?**

LB: You can use your Carp Rods and Reels to Fish for Predators, especially Pike and they will do the job OK, but a purpose made 'Spinning Rod' is better for Lure Fishing.

**TC: Can I target a specific species of Predator Fish...?**

LB: Absolutely you can. You can target a Specific Species by using different bait, for example, Perch love a Maggot or Worm, but Pike however, prefer Dead Baits such as Sardine and Mackerel and Lamprey.

**TC: As a total novice, what would you recommend I target... should I do like I do with carp and just go for the "big 'uns", like a monster Pike for example...?**

LB: To begin with I would start small. Practice targeting small 'Jack Pike' for example as this will get you used to handling the fish, you've already had an encounter with a Zander, which you said

yourself, you didn't know how to handle at the time...

...and that said, I would also recommend going Fishing with someone who has experience with landing and handling Pike and Zander for example, as you will learn from seeing what they do and do things correctly from the start...

**TC: You have already mentioned some of the different types of Predator Fishing that can be done, so what would be the best for a complete novice to get started with...?**

LB: You could begin by targeting 'Perch' as this will get you used to the methods. You could practice using bait such as Maggot and Worm to target the Perch, which you will find are abundant in many Lakes and Rivers and can provide a good day's sport.

**TC: If I was to go and buy some specific Predator Fishing Gear, what would recommend for starter kit...?**

LB: This would be my recommendations to get you a good kit with the essentials, but, just like Carp Fishing, there is plenty of

gear out there to “Catch the Angler” too...

A good Spinning Rod and Reel  
A small selection of Lures (keep it simple)

- **Forceps**, about 12 inches long and these are a must to avoid the Predators teeth when removing hooks which you were lucky enough to be carrying when you encountered your Zander
- **Wire Traces**
- **Wire Cutters**
- **Large Landing Net** - Triangular to safely land the Pike
- **Small Landing Net** (for Perch etc.)
- **Large Unhooking Mat** (for those big girls)
- **Drop-Off Indicators**
- **First Aid Kit** (for you in case the Predator Bites!)
- Good Quality Strong **Braided Mainline**

That is the basics to get you going and safely fish, land and return any ‘Predator’ you catch...! obviously, some of your existing Carp Gear can be used, but I prefer to have a separate set-up, so I don’t have to keep swapping gear as invariably, something will be left behind..

**TC: What are your top-tips to getting started with Predator Fishing...?**

LB: Begin by watching others, check out Pike and Predator Fishing Videos (I have a Pike Playlist over on My YouTube Channel ‘Obsession with Angling’) you can find some great tips and techniques to help you get to grips with Predator Fishing.

Like I have said, “Start Small” target Perch and Jacks to begin with, use fresh Dead Baits, look for features in the River and Lakes to cast too and make sure your Braided Line is strong enough.

Have a good quality selection of Lures available to you if Spinning and, just like in Carp Fishing, keep an eye on the weather. A low pressure with mild temperatures and overcast skies is what I have found to be the best conditions....

..... and most of all “enjoy the experience!”

**TC: I think for now Lee, we will leave it there but it would be great to talk again in a bit more detail about the approach and the use of Lures etc.**

LB: Sounds good to me Mark and if anyone has any questions, they can always drop me a message via my Instagram account...

...So, there you have it, a quick and simple explanation of what Predator Fishing is, where to do it and what you will need to get you started. I will be catching up with Lee ahead of next month to get more insight to the world of Predator Fishing and I will be dusting off my Kit again and looking for someone to show me how to handle those vicious looking creatures future, but for now, I'm taking his advice and going after those Perch...Much safer in my opinion...!

YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/@obsessionwithangling>

Instagram: @obsessionwithangling

### **What other 'Carpers' say about Predator Fishing...**

As a few other friends also fish for Predator species as well as Carp, I thought I would ask them not "How" but "Why" and I thought I'd kick off

with someone that seems to have no problems catching things that bite, the Welsh Ladies Carp Team Manager, Rhian.....

Hi Rhian, so here we go....

### **TC: What got you interested in Predator Fishing?**

RT: 15-16 years ago, me and my partner decided to have a go at lure fishing in hopes of catching our first Pike at Caerphilly Castle, South Wales and hooked into a few jacks alongside a 14lb Pike. Since that day I have been hooked on the sport, it's very addictive, I only target the Pike during the winter months, and as one season comes to a close, I'm on the count down to the start of the next season.

### **TC: Do you target a specific species and why that one?**

RT: Absolutely! For many years I have always mixed up my fishing. Even though I target carp all year round, seasonally I like to head out and target other species at different times of the year - catfish, perch, Pike, barbel, trout etc. I enjoy the challenge that each species has to offer, as each fish requires their own unique approach to one



rhianbomber



**TC: What's your preferred method for Predatory Fishing?**

**RT: For myself, the tactics I use at the start of the Pike season are not the tactics I use coming to the end of season. At the start of the season, you will have quite a lot of success using lures as they are still going to be on the chase at**

another. Many people think you can pop a bait on the end of a hook and throw it in the water and catch anything - if only fishing was that easy HaHa! But being an angler of many species, provides you with a wide variety of skills, methods and tactics, that will teach you several ways on how you need to adapt your form of fishing, for the intended species you want - slipping into that net. You're constantly learning something when you're fishing and if it's not about fishing it's about yourself.

that time of year when the season starts. But as Pike start to slow down over time as the temperature drops, they become less active, rather than be actively on the chase for bait, you will see them sit and wait and sometimes stay in the same place and not move for hours or days even.

I've seen this myself in the lake that I run, so this is the cue that tells me that I can't afford to peg up in one spot and stay there all day. I understand that many anglers may

not have the option to up and move to another swim, but if you do, you need to make the most of your time and you need to be productive, how me and my partner work each peg, we fish light making sure we've got the essential equipment that we need and we set up on pegs next to one another, we work that area for 15-20 mins and if nothing, we move to the next pegs, this gives you the opportunity to cover as much water as possible and increase the chance of finding the Pike we're after.

My favourite way of targeting Pike in those types of conditions is float fishing with a dead bait. I get such a buzz seeing the slightest indication on the float, I think last time I went out Pike fishing I wore my Apple Watch and my heart rate was spiking to 152bpm when I was having takes. So much fun and the adrenaline rush you get is wicked!

**TC: How does the cost of the gear compare to that of your carp gear?**

RT: Carp fishing is probably the most expensive form of fishing you could possibly do. The minimal requirements in regard to equipment for carp fishing can

set you back quite a few pounds before you can even go to a lake and fish. Whereas Pike fishing is a very cheap and affordable form of fishing.

It's very minimal, and you can have great success with just one rod, mat, net, lure or dead bait, wire trace and forceps and that's pretty much it!

**TC: Do you get the same buzz catching the Predatory fish as you do with carp?**

RT: That's a hard question HaHa! As I get a buzz catching anything - even a Roach, as I just enjoy fishing for what it is. But the buzz I get from Pike fishing is something different, it's a buzz I can't explain and I think only other Pike anglers will know exactly what I mean.

**TC: Would you ever give up your carp fishing and just become a predator angler?**

RT: No, I absolutely love carp fishing for many reasons, same as all the other types of fishing I do, I don't think I could ever settle fishing for one species because I love the different places and challenges fishing has to offer



**TC: What advice would you give to someone that has never fished for a predatory species but wants to have a go?**

RT: If you're starting out there's plenty of great videos on YouTube you can watch before heading out Pike fishing. My advice would be if you're going to watch any videos make sure you watch videos on handling and unhooking Pike. I have seen many people fish for Pike and they don't know the basics on how to unhook them or handle them and if you don't know these, things can turn quite messy, so I highly advise anglers to not fish for Pike until you learned these two very important things or ask someone who goes Pike fishing to take you.

If you don't know anyone the best option would be to start off with Lure fishing as nine out of ten Pike are caught in the lip with the lures and are easy to disgorge and once you become more confident handling the Pike then try swapping over to dead bait later in the season.

Just make sure you always carry forceps on you. Don't always think when dead baiting you need to

use treble hooks all the time, circle hooks are really good alternative and majority of catches are always caught in the scissors, but you need to learn how to use them otherwise you will lose a lot of catches. Best way to learn is to just get out there and give it a go!

...and my mate Rob Smith, who I know through Instagram is another Carper that likes to chance his arm 9or at least hand..!)

**TC: So, Rob, what about the same questions to you... What got you interested in Predator Angling...?**

RS: The unknown, the curiosity, the challenge of fishing a different type of water. As we all know carp fishing in winter slows up, but it's not uncommon to catch multiple pike/perch on the coldest of days.

**TC: Do you target a 'Specific Species'...?**

RS: I target all predators. Pike, Perch, Chub and Zander. Eels will be my next target in the new year.

I like to set myself targets not of specific fish but of weights at different venues. The hit offa pike

## Predator Angling



xsmudg3  
LocationX



work schedule.

Chub will feed on the coldest of days, I've had chub in -4 on the small rivers. They're greedy and will literally eat anything. It's great sport catching them off the top too, much like carp.

Zander is relatively new to me, elusive and very hard to come by. The most finicky of bites, but the rewards can be

great. A pike/perch crossover and you can see why. Scaled down pike tactics do the job.

### **TC: What's your 'preferred' method for Predator fishing...?**

RS: Dead baiting for the larger pike always seems to work better than lures. But my favourite type of predator fishing is surface fishing for pike. The hits and explosions are unrivalled....!!!

### **TC: How does the cost of the gear compare to that of your Carp gear...?**

RS: It's like any type of fishing really, you can spend as much or as

chasing a lure is a really buzz. Once you experience it it's very moreish. I guess float fishing dead baits has a type of sentimental value, watching that float slide away will never get old. After all that's how I started fishing on the canal, a small float and a tub of maggots. This is the same only on a larger scale.

Perch is where it started my love for predator fishing, it was a cheap alternative to carp fishing. So simply and very minimalistic. A rod, small bag and a folding net and you're away. Setting targets not necessarily in weights but lengths too. An hour here and there was very easy to fit in around a busy

little as you want. You can have the high-end gear, or a budget set up, but ultimately it comes down to water craft, skill and a little bit of luck. I'd say overall predator fishing is relatively cheaper than carp fishing though as you don't need anywhere near as much gear.

**TC: Do you get the same "buzz" catching the Predatory Fish as you do with a Carp...?**

RS: Absolutely. It's fishing for the unknown that keeps bringing me back.

**TC: Would you ever give up your Carp Angling and just become a Predator Angler...?**

RS: I'd never give up one or the other...!

**TC: What advice would you give to someone that has never fished for a Predatory Species but wants to have a go...?**

RS: Go with someone who can show you the ropes. Unhooking a Pike can be daunting if you don't have the right tools for the job. Let them show you how to do it safely as you will always get 'by catches' so fishing for one species doesn't

always work out. Targeting Perch can lead to catching Pike....

....much like carp fishing and catching Bream. It happens. So go with an experienced angler that can show you the way.

Thanks Rob, some great advice there...

...And finally, I thought I would pester my mate from Nash Tackle and the man that has had a year probably never to be repeated in terms of Catching Carp, but isn't too bad with a few Predators too, Henry Lennon.. I asked him the same questions as Rhian and Rob while interviewing him about the incredible 2022 he had just finished....

**TC: So, tell us Henry, what got you interested in Predator Angling...?**

HL: To be honest, growing up in Switzerland, it was the only type of fishing that was readily available to me. I did far much more pike fishing growing up than carp fishing. I just love how they are the hunter and how you go from periods of quiet to ferocious power with them.



HL: No question – Lure Fishing! I know it isn't the best method for big pike, but nothing beats a winters day of lure fishing. The feeling when you get a bite is something else, the way it makes your heart skip a beat is special.

**TC: Do you target a 'Specific Species'...?**

HL: Pike is king for me, no doubt. I do like perch and zander fishing too, but pike is king. Well, after Muskie... they are actually God in my eyes and my #1 bucket list species.

They are just the boss of the water, you know? Every fish has feared it in their lives and they just own the place. They are so quick and aggressive and when they get big, they look like genuine beasts! I also like the multitude of ways you can fish for them, it keeps it very exciting.

**TC: What's your 'preferred' method for Predator fishing...?**

**TC: How does the cost of the gear compare to that of your Carp gear...?**

HL: Much cheaper HaHaHa... well, until you start losing £15 lures in a tree. After a few of them, it feels pretty expensive! I love how little you need to bring with you for lure fishing, that is another big draw for me.

**TC: Do you get the same "buzz" catching the Predatory Fish as you do with a Carp...?**

HL: Hmmmm difficult one. Probably not – carp is always the top fish to angle for in my eyes. But the feeling when I catch a big pike is akin to

the feeling of catching a good carp. And the feeling when you have a pike smash a lure is the same as when a bite alarm tears off.

**TC: Would you ever give up your Carp Angling and just become a Predator Angler...?**

HL: Probably not... I could never give up carp angling.

**TC: What advice would you give to someone that has never fished for a Predatory Species but wants to have a go...?**

HL: Go with someone who knows what they are doing. Predators are, despite all their teeth and power, very delicate creatures. Don't go buy yourself and accidentally kill them through your own inexperience with how to deal with them.

**TC: Thanks Henry and congratulations once again on a fantastic year of carp Angling and lets hope it carries over to 2023...!!**

..and there you have it, a great insight as to what predator Angling is all about and why so many Carp Anglers go out and do it. I feel the over-whelming message for those that fancy giving it a go is to watch plenty of YouTube vids and if you can, get yourself out alongside an experienced 'Predator' (angler of course...!!)

## Next Month

I get together with Lee Brooks again and get more information for my 'Novice Brain' and hopefully, I will land my first ever Lure caught Perch...??!!





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**Send your articles and catch reports by the  
28th January 2023 for next months magazine**

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