

A man wearing a green beanie with a logo is smiling and holding a large, light-colored carp. The background shows green foliage and a cloudy sky.

# Talking Carp

Magazine

**Issue 26**

**April 2018**

Inside this month -  
Scott 'Geezer' Grant  
Gary 'milky' Lowe  
Andrew Taylor  
Brett McPhee  
Plus Many More



**Hello.... And welcome...**

**By the time you are reading this, the clocks went forward, Spring has sprung, and lakes the length and breadth of Britain are waking up... which is great to see. We see fish are starting to get caught so get those catch reports sent in because starting next month we will be having **a giveaway for the picture of the month!!! Yes we will!!!****

**Also remember it is that time of year for many when your rod licence needs renewing... so do not forget. Do not get caught out... it is really not worth it.**

**We hope you enjoy this months issue as we continue to bring you a great mix of writers from home and abroad... each one telling their tales and dropping some great carp catching hints and tips along the way...**

**Remember, you can contact us at any time, either via the website "contact" button or via our emails ....**

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**[buggy@talkingcarp.co.uk](mailto:buggy@talkingcarp.co.uk)**

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**Talking of giveaways, many of you saw the great Cheshire Particles giveaway in the last issue and entered to win the particle package they put up.... So, let us announce the winner..... picked totally at random.**

**Drumroll.....**

***Andy Shorthouse!! Please get in touch so we can pass your details onto Cheshire Particles. Well done...***

**Have a great month everyone.**

*Team Talking Carp*

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# **Bubbles...**

**Still Searching Part 1  
by Scott Geezer Grant**



With Christmas out the way, it was time for a social over at Churchgate Lakes with my good mate and lake manager Dave. We had a great couple of nights and a good old chin wag.

With work being busy it was difficult to get any time on the bank. I managed to book a week off in February and wanted to have another go at trying to catch Bubbles.

Churchwood fisheries is a top day ticket lake and is exclusive, the facilities are second to none, and everything you need is on site. Toilets, showers, fully fitted kitchen with all appliances. Then there's the swims and grounds, which are immaculate and kept to a very high standard by the Owner Steve Sands and groundsman Mark. You also get supplied with landing net,

floatation sling and unhooking mat, which are in every swim. I was due to arrive on the Friday but due to work commitments I had to put it off until the Monday. I arrived around 10:30 and had a coffee and chat with Steve. He has just had major back surgery and is somewhat immobilised, which is driving him stir crazy as he's active 24/7.

I loaded my gear in the trailer and Mark kindly took it down to my swim, I was fishing the big double a massive swim with lots of room and lots of options fishing wise.

It took me ages to get the house set up along with satellite tv (winter comforts).

With everything in place, it was now time for the rods, I walked around the lake looking for any signs of life, I knew where I had caught from last February and as I hadn't seen anything that would be a good place to start.

Rigs were kept simple and with the amount of leaf matter on the bottom I decided to fish pop us and see how it goes.

Baitwise I kept it light with only a handful of 10mm nut job & the B1. I also used a handful of the new matching pellets as I had used them with

great success at Churchgate Lakes in January.

With the rods sorted it was time for a well-deserved cuppa and a couple of rolls.

I checked the weather and the forecast wasn't great with daytime temperatures of 5oc and night time temperature of -1.

The pressure was 1017 and dropping but this time of year I don't think the pressure plays a massive part to be honest as the fish are lying up either in some crevice or up in the layers.

As the night drew in the temperature dropped a fair few degrees and everything outside of my bivvy was covered in ice.

After an evening of tele I dropped off to sleep around 2300hrs and woke up at 06:00 o'clock busting for a lash. As I came out the bivvy I was surprised to see my half of the lake frozen over!!!

I put the kettle on and as it got light pockets of ice started to melt, but all my lines were frozen in.





I was sat making some notes at around 08:00 o'clock when the left-hand rod screamed off as I came out the bivvy the rod tip was bent round by my line was frozen in!! I grabbed the landing net pole and started smashing the ice up in front to free my line, a few minutes later there was enough room for me to play the fish and I lifted the rod into nothing!! The fish had either spat the hook or it was a pike under the ice, who knows but the rod wasn't going back out until the lake defrosts that's for sure.

The weather again was not a very good forecast with 3oc in the day and going down to zero at night the lake will most probably freeze again. As the rain fell the lake defrosted pretty quick, and as soon as it was the rod was back out. Rain is forecast on and off for most of the day so hopefully this will induce a bite. Nothing happened for the rest of the day (action wise) and as nightfall came I decided to leave the rods where they were and recast them tomorrow morning.

I was hoping when I woke up in the morning the lake wasn't frozen and with the temperatures only going down zero I was hopeful.

When I woke the next morning, the lake was ice free which gave me a bit more confidence. Steve popped down to see how I was getting on as he was cracking up indoors.

He stayed for around an hour then made his way back up to his house, I had another walk around the lake and decided to move two of my rods. This time of the year it's about finding them which is half the battle... the other half is catching them. Weather wise it was a better day with strong southernly winds along with rain and boy did it rain!! From around 1400 until 2300 it was nonstop; would it stir them up? Who knows.

I woke in the morning to find the lake ice free it was still very cold and without any sunshine this could be a blank session.

Later that afternoon my mrs popped over with more supplies the sun came out all but briefly and there was still a nasty chill in the air. The evening passed again without any action and I was now 4 nights in, this time last year I had banked 5 fish including one of the A Team.

When I woke up Friday morning the end down to my right had cat ice all across it, the cradle had ice on it and it was another cold night. The forecast for the day was 8oc with sunshine. This is a blessing the lake looked so much more alive with robins tweeting and the odd midge flying about, it's amazing what a bit of sun does.

As I hadn't touched the rods for over 24hrs

I thought it best I did. What with the ducks driving me mental constantly diving on the bait I wanted to make sure my hookbait was present and presented properly. I kept 2 rods in the same area but decided to

move the third as the sun was now banging on the far margin and I have caught from a hard area from over there in previous trips. Both Mark and Steve popped down to see how I was getting on and for a general chat,



once they departed I sat watching the water hoping to see any signs of life.

With the rods done it was time for a bit of breakfast, sausage sandwiches with melted cheese, if you haven't tried this yet I recommend you do. As the sun was out I was hoping this would have an impact on the fish and maybe get them moving about. Steve's cousin Nick turned up Friday afternoon and was doing a couple of nights on Jenkins, the lake situated next to Churchwood.

The lake is around an acre with depths to 9ft and has a good head of stunning 20lbbers up to just under the 30lb mark.

I chatted with Nick for most of the afternoon, as I knew his Dad Alan who sadly passed away last year.

We paid homage to both his Dad and my

Mum who both lost their battles against the dreaded cancer.

It really hurts to watch someone you love be fit and healthy one minute and the next they are fighting for their

life and become a completely different person.

Back to the fishing and Nick had done well on the complex right up until Christmas then it started to tail off. We all know the fish hold up in the winter months and when the weather really turns it becomes a lot harder.

The fish in both Jenkins and Churchwood don't give themselves up easy and when you do



manage to bank one they are stunners and the effort pays off. We had a lovely home cooked sausage casserole courtesy of my mrs which went down a treat, then we retired to our bivvies to chill out and relax. Saturday morning when I awoke and came out the bivvy the lake again had cat ice, not a good sign and was now starting to wear me down.

I popped down to see Nick and there was only a small area which had cat ice and to be honest Jenkins looked a lot more promising, he also lost a fish at 3am.

I decided I was going to move onto Jenkins when Nick goes Sunday afternoon. I spent the next 2 hrs moving all my gear down to the lodge and left my bed chair and bivvy where they were and would move them Sunday afternoon. With all my gear packed I went home and would return the next day and

fish Jenkins for a few nights as I still had 3 nights before I had to go back to work. So, the search for Bubbles was truly over until next winter. Find out in part 2 how my session goes on Jenkins Lake. If you would like to book up Churchwood, Jenkins or even the cat lake visit [www.churchwoodfisheries.co.uk](http://www.churchwoodfisheries.co.uk) where you can find all the information you need, and the number to call to book a place. I would like to

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

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Geezer





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Snow On The Way... But Still  
Worth A Shot, Right?  
By Sam Redmond

As we all know the fishing trip start days before you arrive: tying up new rigs, getting the bait defrosted and trying to contain the excitement. As usual with commercial fisheries we had to pre-book pegs. The day we called there was only 2 pegs left for the weekend, with the warm temperatures coming, we knew the majority of fish would be held up in a bay on the opposite side to the available pegs, but with the lake being “full” we were still optimistic of getting a few. As the days came closer to the trip the weather forecast started to deteriorate, low temperatures, high pressure and maybe snow. Not the greatest of weather, but with a well-presented rig, a high-quality bait and sharp hooks there is always a chance. The day arrived, up early like a child at

Christmas, I couldn't wait to go. The sun was up, and it was boiling, surely this would help start the carp to feed.

My fishing partner David Jones turned up 3 hours before he was meant to. Both excited we got the van loaded and headed off to the lake. We arrived 2 hours before we could even get on the pegs. So, we decided to take a walk round keeping eyes open for any signs of fish near the pegs we had. After speaking to a few people only 1 peg had produced a fish, the peg with access to the bay.

While walking round the only signs of fish we saw were tucked up on the tree line in the bay. It was finally time for us to get the rods out, the guys on the peg before had us 1 fish as they

were packing up. After seeing no signs of fish, I set up the marker rod and tried to find something, the bottom was all silt until I felt the slight tap on the rod, a small gravel patch. This would be the feature I fished to. Deciding to fish one rod in the middle of the gravel and one just off it. Having 2 swims between me and mate, we split the rods, we had 2 each in front of the cabin and 1 just behind it. My rod behind the cabin was fished up against a tree, that had grown out around 4 feet from the bank. With the splits decided I got the rods loaded up ready to go, the left rod in the middle of the gravel loaded with 2x 12ml Manilla boilies on a blowback rig, my middle rod loaded with a sticky signature pink pop up, the right-hand rod loaded with a 15mm Manilla tipped

with white mainline topper. The bottom bait hooks of choice were the size 2 Pallatrax Gripz hook and the weight choice was the 3oz stone. The first 2 rods into the open water went out perfect, both rods with small pva mesh bags of Manilla crumb soaked in cloudy Manilla liquid and around 30 whole 12mm and 15mm boilies over the top.

The plan was to trickle around 10 boilies every hour or so to keep the noise up and try to entice a bite. I

waited to put the right rod out, just slowly trickling bait in every hour. I trickled in hemp, crumbled Manilla and whole Manila 12 and 15mm. The final right-hand rod went out about 6pm, still having seen nothing to go on we just waited, the temperature started to drop as the hours ticked by. Still sat out talking and listening, just as we sat to start having some food around 11pm, the Delkim receiver beeped, it was the right-hand rod, as I walked round to check,

the bobbin started dropping, lifted into it and connected with a carp. Trying to keep him away from spot he moved out into the open water, after a small fight a bright orange leather graced the net cord. First things first, more bait on the spot, fresh rig, fresh bait and back out on the spot. After weighing him we were both surprised he just went over 20, 20.1lb, I was made up, first fish, first 20 of the session.

The night past quietly with no action for either angler. Up early Saturday morning, just as the sun crept over the trees, hoping the carp would show themselves. Having only seen 1 small patch of bubbles in a neighbouring swim by 10am, I pulled the rods out to rebait the rigs. I spread some more bait around the gravel patch and decided to



go for a walk around the other lakes to rest the swim for an hour or 2. After having the first fish on a bottom I took the Ronnie of and replaced it with another blowback rig, this time using a Manilla snowman, a 15ml bottom bait and 12ml pop up. Rods back out on the same spots, the middle rod took a few casts to get just on the edge so that I was happy. With nothing happening through the day but the sun being up I tried zigs, different depths different colour with no luck. Once again as the hours went by the temperatures went down.

So, bottom bait rigs back out, more free offerings on both spots. Sat in the cabin, heating on, cup of tea and a good chat was soon interrupted when the left-hand rod erupted, after a

dogged fight, a mirror slipped the net. Same procedure as last time, fresh bait, fresh rig and back on the spot. As I was playing the fish my mates rod gave a few beeps, bobbin up bobbin down and then right down, he lifted into and he was playing a bream. So, with one fish in the net waiting to be photographed, just as he was unhooking the bream, my middle rod was of, the spare net came in handy to net a middle double common. After a

double take I thought the fish would be near and stay, so kept trickling in whole boilie but it was an uneventful night. Hoping to get a little lay in I was interrupted by slow take to the left rod, I've run out of the cabin to snow everywhere, lifted into the rod and could tell this fish was different, no wild shaking just a slow plod with a few bursts of energy. Just as I'd think she was tiring I'd gain line, she'd take it back. She was finally in close, a



massive boil came to the surface followed by large shoulders, my mate has tried to rebuild the net, a school boy error not doing it after the last fish, to find the net head had frozen no way to get the net in. This added to the fact the net was frozen to the ground and stuck together, all this happening while I knew I was connected to something special. With still no way to get the net back together the fish rose to surface to take a gulp of air.

My mate had to open the net by hand, no pole to keep it open. As he went to slip the net under she powered off, but soon she slipped over the cord of the hand opened net. We both knew as we opened the net to see she was a new PB for myself. Being extra gentle with her making sure there was

no way for her to get injured moving her to the cradle. With the scales being zeroed I couldn't stop smiling.

**She pulled the scales round to 34.4lb. A new PB, my first 30lb and my first snow carp.**

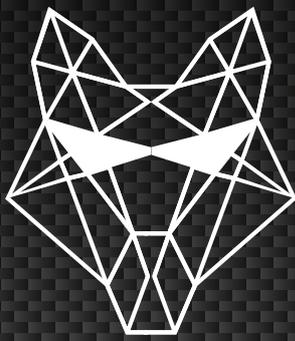
I couldn't believe my luck. With a quick call to the shop to confirm the weight, I was told I had the biggest in the lake sulking in my sling. Even though she was down in weight she looked as healthy as ever.

With a few photos taken, she was

released back to make some one else's dream come true. Still beaming with pride I got the rod back out onto spot. An angler a peg down came to congratulate me, just as he went to shake my hand the left rod was of again. With the snow still falling, legs still shaking, I was connected to carp number five of the trip. A mid double mirror entered the net with a lot less hassle. This little mirror finished the trip of for me. I couldn't believe the session I had with the weather being against me and only one other fish coming out of the lake the whole weekend.

This was my red-letter session.

Catch you again soon,  
Sam.



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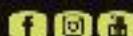


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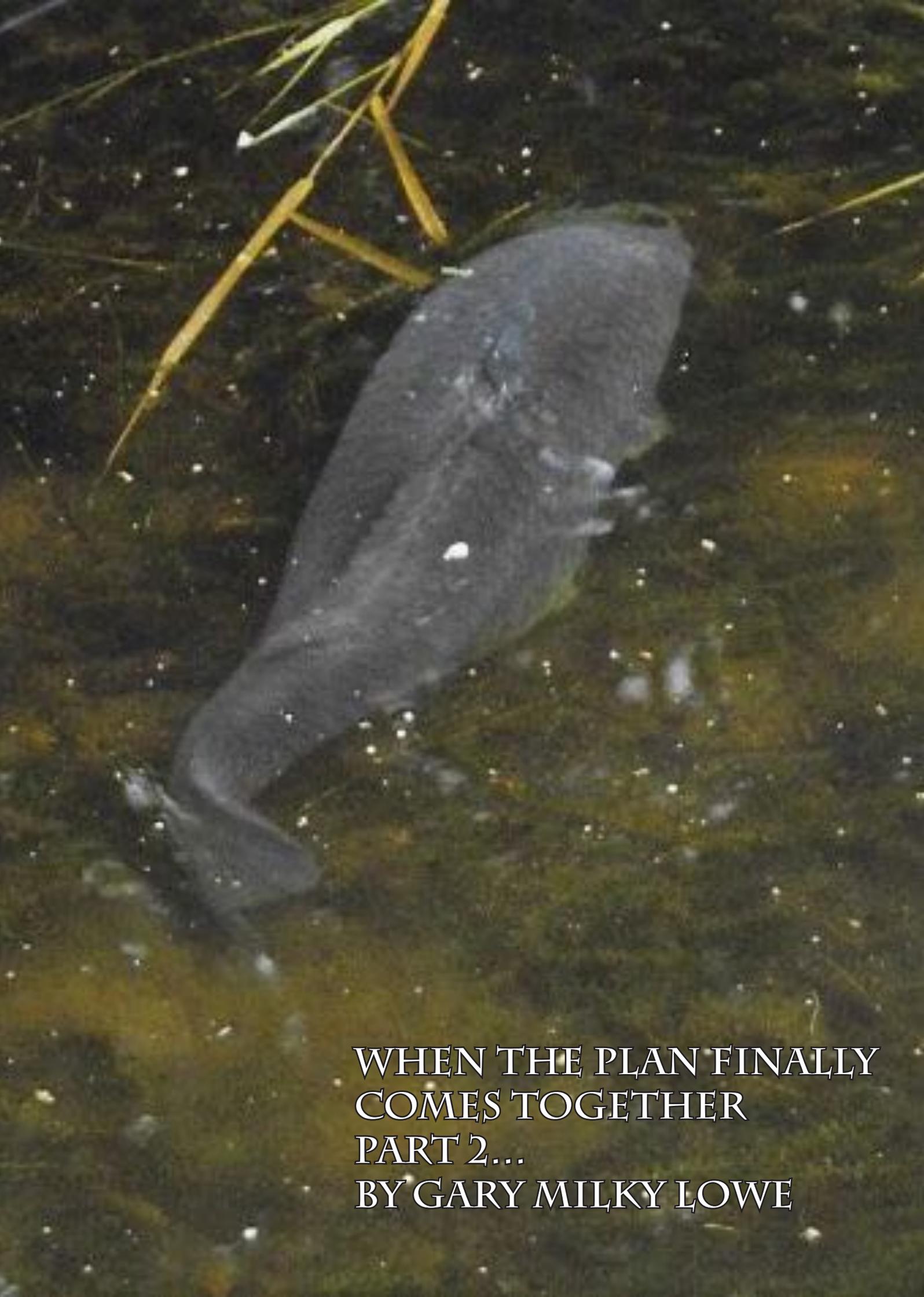
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WHEN THE PLAN FINALLY  
COMES TOGETHER  
PART 2...  
BY GARY MILKY LOWE

It was early May when I decided to get back over there. I was going to still stay in the same area as I was sure that they would turn up in this area, and as I found out that the common had been caught from this area in the past, I was still going to use the Mainline Activ-8 but I was going to leave out the particle as I was sure this was attracting the bream. I was there early on the Monday and was set up in the same swim as last year, all three rods were in the same area and a good few kilos of activ-8 was put on the spots. That first season I learnt a lot and I even saw my first carp and it was in the bay to my left, so I definitely had the right area, even though I didn't catch any. Yes, I didn't even catch a bream so it looked like not putting any particle in was a good move

and I couldn't wait to get back down there next week for three days. I was there on the Monday morning again and was all set up in my swim again by midday. All three rods on the spots and I sat down at the front of the swim with a cuppa in hand. I saw a carp clear the water in the bay again.... now I was in a dilemma! Do I put two rods in the bay or leave them where they were? If I put an extra rod in the bay it might spook them off and they won't come back so I left them how they were. That evening I started to get a few liners on the rods that were out on the plateau, which I put down to the big shoals of bream as there wasn't many carp in the lake.

Well that evening I sat there at the front of the swim watching the water and the sun

going down when I see a massive common come clean out of the water!! It was well out of my range out of the bay. As soon as the rings disappeared I had a call off Dave... he said, "Did you see that?" I didn't even know he was on the lake. We had a chat for a while and then I settled down for an early night. During the night I was woken a few times by the buzzer on the left had rod that was in the bay and I put this down to bream moving about and I soon drifted back to sleep. In early hours of the morning I was woken by a screaming buzzer. It was the rod in the bay, and I, was up and on it in a flash and this fish was taking line at a rate of knots and flat rodded me a few times. When I finally managed to get the fish under some kind of control it was a

good 150 yards out into the main body of the lake and I could feel the line grating in the weed, but I was going to try and land it from the bank. I managed to slowly get the fish through the weed bed and in to open water where it woke up and now it was heading towards the other two rods on the plateau, so I had to try and stop it, or I would be in big trouble.

I managed to stop it getting to the rods and it was slowly coming towards me and I had it in the margins. It

was going from side to side, the margins are not deep, so it couldn't go down, all it could do was go from side to side. After about 5 mins I slipped the net under a dark mirror. To say I was chuffed was an understatement! I dropped the net and did a little dance... by this time it was getting light so I can wait to do the photos when the sun comes up but first I was going to weigh my prize. On the scales it went bigger than I thought! It went 35lb 4 oz. That is not bad for a first fish from a lake that's 360 acres.

I placed the carp in a retainer and placed it in the edge till it was light enough to do a few snaps. I only had to wait 20 minutes and I could do the photos. A few good snaps and back she went, and I sat back and put the kettle on for a nice brew then I would put the rod out. I text Dave saying that I had one and a picture of it and he confirmed that that fish was out last 5 years ago at 28lb. After that the rod was put back out and baited up again. The next two days I didn't see another thing anywhere near me and it was time to go home.

On the way home, I was thinking "That's it, I've got the area they want to be in, and I'll have a few more." How wrong could I be? For the next three months it kicked me in the backside big time.



Three months of seeing nothing and I was back on the bank in the same swim and there was a few of us on the lake. Well I say a few, there was 4 of us on 360 acres and me and Dave and John decided to have a BBQ on the second night. Our swims were fairly close to each other well about 600 yards from each other so not too close. On the first night I got all the rods out and baited up and sat back and watched the water with a cuppa. I see nothing right up until it was just getting dark and I saw a very big fish again to my left just on the edge of the bay which filled me with confidence but that's all I've seen in three months, so I was well happy that there was a fish close by. I thought I would have an early night as I wanted to be up early to watch the water. I was awake at first light,

the water was flat calm for a few hours then we had a very slight warm wind start to blow into my face, which I thought that if there was anything near me they would stay in this area. I looked around my water all day and I saw nothing, not even a liner from bream so I had lost all confidence. I started to get the BBQ ready for the lads as they said they would come over for around 6pm. We would have the food and a few beers then everyone would go back to their swims. We enjoyed the food and had a good laugh and they set off back to their swims.

I settled down for a good night's sleep after they had gone. During the night I was woken by a few bleeps on the rods that were out in open water and I put that down to bream, and just went back to sleep. I woke up just

on light and I was lying there watching the rods when the right rod bleeped a few times and the bobbin was tight to the top of the rod. I thought "great, a bloody bream" and I was in no hurry to get to the rod. By the time I got to the rod the line was moving to the right and still I thought bream. I picked up the rod tightened the clutch and leant into the bream. That's when everything changed!! The rod was nearly ripped from my hands as this fish took line from me now. I thought "this is not a bream!" It was charging down the lake to my right and I had to try a stop this carp now as if it goes too far I will not be able to get a direct pull. I would have to get in the boat to get to this one well. I put the life jacket on and climbed into the boat and made my way out to the fish. By now I was around

150 yards out into the lake but about 200 yards to my right. By now Dave was at the front of his swim and was watching me out there and asked if I need a hand but at that moment I was ok. This fish was charging up and down and was staying deep, it was going in and out of a few weed beds and was a good 10 minutes until I had some kind of control on the fish and I started to gain some line. The first glimpse I had of the fish was when I saw a big golden flank and then it dived down. I shouted to Dave that it was a big common. I started to shake as I think I know what I had on. I started to take it easy and the fish had the upper hand, but I got myself together and it was finally up on the surface and I could see the scar on the side of this common. Now I knew that this was the

big common, that this fish was a upper 40. A few more minutes and it was in the net. I let out a massive shout but by this time Dave was by my side and he confirmed it was the big common. We both rowed back to my swim and made sure the fish was safe in the edge while we got all the gear ready. Scales were ready... we both got the fish ready near the scales and when lifted up they spun round to 47lb. Now I just shouted and done a little dance! Dave done a magic job on the camera and I eventually slipped her back to her home

we sat there for a few hours just talking about what I had caught and what was left but did I really want to stay on here chasing that big mirror that had only ever been out twice or do I say that's it and move on. The last thing I want to do is stay here and catch the common again, and instead let someone that's on there catch it so I said to Dave I was going to pull of until you have caught it then I would come back and we can both have a go at the mirror.. so until then tight lines and happy carping go and chase your dreams as they can come true.



# Crack your carp tactics



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Carp Chronicles  
by  
Brett McPhee

After the Northern angling show my head was awash with information, I went and listened intently to Frank Warwick talk about the single hookbait approach he put to great effect on Redesmere and how over exaggerated flavour levels in the bait helped him bank some of the North's most prized fish. I also listened to Mark Holmes talk and that absolutely blew my mind, I know that some of the information I gleaned from these well-respected anglers I must put into my own fishing this year and that is where my game plan for the year has started to formulate. It's important to set out your mind for the year I feel and it's something I have done for a good number of years, you have a target or idea in your mind and that is what drives your forward.

This year I am going back to using particles a lot more, and when I say particles not just the usual hemp, maize and part blend I mean some of the out of vogue ones like chick peas, groats and tares all have incredible pulling power and can be tailored so they are unique to you. Mark got me thinking a lot more about how we can make our bait stand out from the crowd and bring the fish into an area. With this in mind I intend to play about

with shop bought additives and the whole fermentation process. Google has already become my best friend and I have found myself on whole food and health food sites seeking out some rather special ingredients that will hopefully make my mixes stand out from the crowd. It's been a long time since I have played with anything like this and the thoughts racing through my mind have me excited to see what can be



achieved.

Anyway back to fishing I got out for my first 48 hour session on 8th March finally temps had started to creep up and the increased daylight hours would surely see the fish moving about more in search for the food they need pre spawn. I had planned to do 48 hours on my syndicate but 24 hours in and not so much as a line bite or a seen fish had me changing my plan and venturing over to Meadowview where Joe and Jake would be fishing Friday till Sunday. I arrived and got set up before the rain started and basically decided to stick 1 rod out on a solid bag and the other 2 out on multi rigs small pop ups with a bed of particle over the top. While the kettle was boiling I set about spodding some bait out over the top, it's only a

small venue width wise and maybe spodding looked excessive but it was the only way to get the bait out there. With everything done I sat back on the bed with a brew to chill out. The middle rod let out a few bleeps only minutes later showing me that the fish had obviously been attracted to the sound of the spod on the water. And not 20 minutes later the rod ripped off, a spirited fight from a scrapper of a carp that only weighted maybe 8lb

but must have thought he was a 50!

The fish was returned and I got the spod rod out again to top up the swim.

Again the line bites started almost immediately and half an hour later the right rod was off, this one felt a little better and I wasn't surprised to see a nice double common sulking in the net. Quick snap and back went the fish. time by bringing a canister of gas down



I always forget to replace the stashed one in my car when I have used it.

With them gone and the rain now heavy it was bivvy time and food time, Thai green curry went down a treat while the patter of the rain hit the bivvy.

It didn't take long for it to help me drift off to sleep and I woke early next morning with only one more fish during the night to my name. I wasn't hanging around and was soon packed up soaked and heading home leaving Joe and Jake to fish on, turns out the fish shut up shop all weekend with nobody catching anymore so I think I was lucky to have had the 4.

The Thursday after had me heading back onto Suretop hoping that the fish would finally have woken from their winter slumber, the forecast for the filling few days

was not good with the beast from east part 2 coming in.

I arrived at the lake about 3pm after first going home for a sleep after my night shift. There was nobody else on and the point seemed like a good area to start, so I moved my kit round and stuck the rods out while I sat and watched for a few hours to see if anything showed. Nothing did so I found myself sticking up the bivvy and bed there for the night.

It went cold again that night and with the wind coming right at me it was a night of shut bivvy door and keep warm, not ideal when you're trying to figure out where the fish are. The wind had really got up the next day coming straight at me in

40-50mph gusts, it's a bad thing about the place having 2 fields either side and lots of area for the wind to gather speed and whip right across the lake means it gets very strong sometimes.

Phil was planning on coming on for the night but when he got down and seen it and also the fact I had not seen it heard anything he decided against it in favour of a few pints in the local pub with me. Snow gripped the country again



that week and I had decided that a day session on Meadowview would do me on Thursday morning straight from work.

They have been doing lots of good work at the fishery with new bivvy pegs and pathways with work still going on down one end I chose to head up the other end it's a little shallower down this end and with a warm sun I was expecting them to be there. I stuck out 2 rods on the fruit specials yellow and white and a scattering of bollies



over the top simple easy fishing really.

About an hour in and with me snoozing in the chair in the sun the left rod let out a single bleep, I got up and walked to the rod to check it and sure

enough as I got there it flew off. I bent into the fish and the rod took on its battle curve.

It plodded to left a little but didn't give up too much of a fight, I knew it was a grass carp as soon as I seen its head. I slipped the net under it and see about getting the photo stuff ready while the fish rested in the net. The rod went back out and I decided to change the other one over to a squid pop up as nothing had shown on that rod.



Mike the owner popped down for a brew about an hour later with a brew for me good man he is.

Anyway half way through my brew and having a chat about what plans he has for the fishery and the right rod was away. The fish fought well and gave a good account of its self but eventually I persuaded

him that a picture with me was not all bad. It was definitely the pretty of us two anyway and I held aloft a stunning fully scaled mirror while Mike did the honours with the camera.

Well that's it for this month but I have my first long trip booked in for early April and I am off down to Linear for

6 nights so hopefully I should have plenty more for you next month.

Until then good luck and keep enjoying it.

Brett



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# *In search of the Monster...*



by Andrew Taylor

*Part 1*

Well well well... Where do I start? Since my last article stating my plans for the coming year a few things have changed.

Firstly, I didn't manage to get out on the bank at the end of February as planned due to very bad weather conditions, which left the lakes frozen for a few days. The slight change for me is I have decided against re-joining my syndicate in Evesham, Rookery Meadow, but I will hopefully re-join it next year.

The reason behind this is nothing against Rookery Meadow, or the people that run it, as it's an unbelievable venue, with some amazing fish, and great management with great things set for the future but I've decided that from April, Hams Hall Syndicate is the place most my fishing

adventures will be at! I also have a list the size of my arm with venues I want to try this year. So, I wouldn't get on Rookery unfortunately as much as I would like to this year, so its best I drop off it for a season. Also I've decide that this is the year I introduce mini me, my son Josh to the amazing world of fishing properly as over the past 6 months he has been saying he wants to come with me every time I go fishing, so now...

hopefully... if the weather actually decides to warms up, I will have a bivvy partner, the best one of all my pride and joy, my 4 year old son!

But before that all starts, I have chosen to go back to Mineral Lakes in Bedworth for two different reason... first the owner has stocked the main lake



with three more carp over the last few weeks with all of them being over the 30lb mark, so this tempted me to get out there.

Secondly, and the main reason to return here is I'm in hunt of a giant Sturgeon which hasn't been caught since the start of December last year, at that time it weighed in at an incredible 96lb!

It's has also been just over 12 months since I caught the monster of the deep myself, which then it weighed 77lb 8oz, so in just over 8 months it has put on just over a whooping 18lb! Amazing... with that said in the last 3/4 months how much more has it put on without being banked??? Is it over 100lb yet??? One way to find out...

I planned to go to Mineral Lakes on Friday 16th March for a 48-hour session.

I check the weather forecast a few days before and it looked good for this weekend, it was light cloud and breezy, temperatures up to 10°, and the air pressure was on the rise... well what a shock I was in for... we'll come back to the weather a bit later.

So, on the Thursday before I was due to go, I got home from work and I mixed up a kilo of Mainline Cell Activated Pellets in 4mm and 6mm, half a kilo of each, a handful of Mainline Cell Stick Mix,

a handful of Mainline Hybrid Stick Mix and a splash of Mainline Cell Stick Mix Liquid. Then I chopped up about a kilo of Mainline boilies and added this to the mix and this was my end product, hhhmmmm delicious! All that was left to do was add the Essential Cell Mainline Power Particle Spomb Mix and a good couple of handfuls of red and white maggots. Happy days my carp bait was ready!

I decided to make a



fishy flavoured mix for the sturgeon to thrive on! So, I got around 2 kilo of Mainline fish meal boilies, about 2 kilo of halibut pellets, then a few house hold ingredients including tinned salmon and a tin of whole sardines, I mash then all up in a bucket and it smelt... horrible... ha ha ha hopefully the Sturgeon will like it!

Car loaded and in the garage it went and I was ready to go in the morning!

I arrived at the lake Friday morning around 6:45am ready for it to open at 7am, once open and after a quick walk around I chose to fish the same peg I last caught the monster from the last time I had it just over 12 months ago, so fingers crossed... I was hoping for history was to

repeat itself...

I proceeded to set up for this... exciting weekend ahead of me...

Once set up I decided to cast a lead around to find a little bomb hole I'd come across on previous sessions as this was a nice little spot to fill up with bait, and tempt a sturgeon to come along and shovel it all up... also again this being the last spot I caught him from... I found the little bomb hole around 2 rods length down the margin to my right. I then notice a few carp showing in between two Christmas tree looking trees on the island to my right, so it was now time to use my new bait boat which I'd been dying to test out since my last session, my brand new Wave Runner Atom! I decide to bait this area up with the mix I'd made the night before. So I sent the boat out 4

times and dropped my mix tight to the island in-between these to Christmas trees.

I then choose to spice things up on my hook bait to fish over the top of my mix, so I choose a 10mm White Mainline Cell Pop Up topped off with a Pink 10mm Mainline Tuna Dumbell Wafter. This is how it would have looked on the lake bed... gorgeous and attractive!

After around an hour of having my rods out, and while was sipping on a nice cup of tea, and eating a cheese and onion toasty, I was browsing my Facebook account and everyone was going on about how the weather was suddenly changing and we was expecting strong winds, freezing conditions and snow storms... I checked for the local weather in the area and they weren't wrong, it had delivered

everything they had said and some more... great!

Throughout the day the weather was quickly dropping in temperature... it was getting so cold, winds was reaching up to 40/50mph, which made it feel even colder... the snow was set to start early Saturday morning, so I decided to cut my session short and just do a quick 24 hour session, some other people on the lake had already decided to pack up throughout the day and not even bother staying.

While speaking to someone on the next peg along... typically... my Sturgeon rod ripped off...

By the time I got to my rod... I had missed it... Was this the monster I came for? I will never know... I was gutted!



I reset my rod and re-baited the area...

It was around 6pm and my other rod ripped off... I was into my first fish... happy days. After a few minutes and a scrappy fight, I slipped this gorgeous mirror carp into my net. At 16lb on the nose I was chuffed to get off the mark, especially in these horrid conditions...

I was getting set for the night ahead, thermals on and a change of clothing, and it was time to test out my new Nash Bivvy Heater... all I will say is... what an awesome piece of kit, and the safest way to keep warm on the bank.

At around 10pm my rod ripped off again, another mirror carp, not so big this time, only 13lb 5oz but it's not always the size when they look this



nice. Happy days. The wind had started to really pick up now, it was hitting up to 60mph, I thought my bivvy was going to take off!

It was unbelievable... I had to keep re-pegging the front of my bivvy down as the wind kept loosening the pegs as it was blowing straight towards me!

I barely slept a wink, as soon as I lay down, I was back up pegging the bivvy back down, it was a nightmare!

Then around 3pm, I had my third and

final fish, a beautiful common carp at 15lb. After a few quality snaps, away she went to fight another day. I then decided to pack things away to get off at the crack of light, as these conditions was turning dangerous now, other people on the lake was up all-night sorting there bivvies, there unhooking mats and cradles where blowing across the lake and everything... it was chronic!

As soon as the break of light, I had already packed away pretty

much everything, I just had to get it to the car and break my bivvy away... after a fight and a half to hold down my bivvy and pack it away, I was all set for my journey back home.

I never got the fish I went there for on this occasion... but I'm confident that sooner rather than later I will once again land this beast, and smash my personal best Sturgeon... my time will come...

Besides the weather playing a major part, I actually had a quality 24 hour, landing three gorgeous carp!

I also used a size 6 SWG hook, a trans green aligner, a trans green anti-tangle sleeve and a pinch of tungsten putty from the ever-faithful Deception Angling and Fox Camotex stiff coated braid. This was

attached by a quick clip to a Tranzlusion Fluorocarbon Leader also from Deception Angling, which had a 1oz Inline Dice from Lump Leads, on my own running lead set up.

This session also had me trying out my new custom Mag Heads which I had made specially designed by Intelligent Angling Solutions to fit and colour match my Nash R3 bite alarms, well chuffed with these! I would like to say a massive thanks to

the follow companies, as they have been amazing to me over the years and I look forward to the future ahead with you all, I am truly honoured to represent you all...

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Roll on my next session, so until then... have fun and be safe, tight lines everyone!

Andrew Taylor





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A photograph of a sunset over a body of water. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright, golden glow that reflects on the water's surface. In the background, a long bridge spans across the water. The foreground is filled with reeds and other aquatic plants, some of which are out of focus. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds, and the overall atmosphere is calm and serene.

***Serious Carp Socials (SCS)***  
**- Monument Social**  
**by Dave Bennion**

The third Serious Carp Social of 2018 was held from 24-25 March at RH Fisheries, Monument Complex, Shifnal, Shropshire. The complex has two lakes, Monument 1 (the original lake) and Monument 2 (the new lake). The original plan had been to fish Monument 1 but when this sold out in just a few hours Tremayne, who runs SCS, managed to also secure Monument 2 - which then also sold out within just a few days. This meant SCS had the whole complex for exclusive use, and with a total of 33 anglers this was going to be one of the largest socials since the idea started a few years ago.

Once again anglers attended the social from all over the country and it really goes to show how well this idea has caught on, considering at the start it was being attended by a small number of anglers centered around the Northwest of England.

Everyone met at the fishery for 6am on the Saturday and the narrow lane leading to it had cars queuing from 5.30am with attendees eager to get on with it. The weather at the start wasn't great with a lot of drizzle and temperatures about 2 deg. C but this could not dampen the spirits of everyone and there was a real buzz about the place.

There was a good mix at this social of people attending for the first time and regulars who had been before. There was also chance for some of the anglers who attended the very successful trip to Dream lakes in France last year to meet up again, because 5 out of the 15 that made that trip attended this social.

One of the rules at Monument is that you must use their bait (you can use your own hook baits) so the first task when the gates opened was for everyone to stock up at the onsite shop. There is a good selection of boilies, particle and pellets so an orderly queue was formed, and everyone stocked up with their bait of choice. I did notice that one of the favorites seemed to be the B-Caramel boilies – they smell fantastic. This was also the time to order breakfast for later and for Sunday morning.



At 7am the draw for swims was made - as usual this is done by drawing a number out of a bag in the order you booked on the social. There is then a chance for people to swap swims if they want to be next to friends. At this point Tremayne also handed out a goodie bag to each angler with a variety of free offerings from the companies that sponsor the socials.

By 8am everyone was on their way to their swims to setup. With it still drizzling most anglers seemed to prioritize getting their bivvies up but I'd say that most had their rods in and fishing by 9.30.

The rain stopped by about 10am and the temperatures started to rise slowly to about 6 deg. The rest of the morning passed without any fish coming out, but plenty of anglers reported having regular liners so the fish did seem to be active and moving around.

While everyone was setting up PJM Productions had the drone up the air taking some brilliant aerial photos of the complex as usual.



At midday the BBQ was ready, so everyone gradually made their way down to the marquee that had been erected on the car park for some food and a few drinks. As usual there was more food than could be eaten with burgers, kebabs, chicken and lamb and a few cans to wash it down. While eating Andy Mullholland of PB Products arrived to share his experiences and do some rig demonstrations. This was very much appreciated by the anglers and was very informative.



By about 2pm everyone was back in their swims and rods were out again. Approx. 5.30pm and the first fish is out. Jamie Clayton (on his first social) had hit into a 31lb 4oz mirror on Monument 2 known as Tekkers!!!



This was Jamies account of the capture:

*“I was fishing on peg 13 on M2. Fishing tight to the island with a stiff hinge with 10mm washed out white pop up. I was fishing over a bed of mixed boilies 10mm, 14mm and 18mm B-caramel and CCP which are both very similar and just a slight difference in color. Every 2 hours I topped up my spot with about 5 or 6 catapults worth. I recast my rod out on the spot about 3.30 with a PVA mesh stick of RH fisheries pellet with some glug.”*

Not long after this there is another fish out but this time on Monument 1. Mike Preedy had landed a 34lb Mirror from peg 5.



Mike said:

***“I was fishing peg 5 on Monument 1 using a blowback rig with a yellow dumbbell wafter over a bed of 10mm B-caramel boilies when I hooked into and landed a 34lb mirror.”***

There was to be another fish out before the end of the first day and this fell to Stephen Ainsworth on Peg 2, Monument 2 at approx. 10pm and weighed in at 20lb 8oz.



The temperatures dropped on the Saturday night to about 1 deg. C and the rest of the night and Sunday morning passed without any more fish being caught. The anglers woke to totally different weather on the Sunday with plenty of sun and some stunning sunrises.



It wasn't until approx. 13.30 on the Sunday afternoon when the next fish was caught. Gavin Lambert had his first fish from peg 1b on Monument 2, a common weighing 28lb 6oz. This was to be the start of a magic few hours for Gavin as this was closely followed by a 22lb mirror and then another weighing 28lb. Considering Gavin had spent all the first day setting up and cooking the BBQ this was a fantastic feat, to have three 20s in just a few hours.



Gavin said;

***“I was fishing to a bar that was in front of me and all 3 fish came from the same spot. I used a B-caramel boilie topped with a Pallatrax Fluro pop-up and put these out in a PVA bag of B-caramel boilies.”***

The final fish of the social came just before packing up time and it was Scott Falconer that landed it from peg 3 on Monument 2 and this weighed 18lb 8oz.



Scott said:

***"I was just fishing single hook baits. I had an inline lead setup with Korda IQ-D rig and size 6 hook with a 10mm yellow Richworth pop-up."***

So, the social came to an end at 6.00pm on the Sunday and there had been 7 fish caught. Monument 2 throwing out the most fish but Monument 1 the largest fish.

This was another very enjoyable Serious Carp Social and we now look forward to the next one at Cromwell Lakes in April, which sold out in just a few hours.

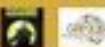
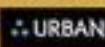


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*Natural Baits*  
*by Donato Corrente*



Boilies and pellets, now always present in the bags of all carp anglers do not always make the difference, but when the situation becomes difficult, it is necessary to re-evaluate some natural baits that if presented in the correct way can be a valid alternative.

Fishing almost always in the river and in my case in the Po, marginal fishing is a must especially because of the strong current that forces us to look for less fast stretches and maybe with some nice water, areas that the carp will surely patrol because rich in food.

Having said that, we are talking about a series of foods that we also use to eat, but which can also be used successfully in our carp fishing sessions.

Lures such as tuna, anchovies, sardines, garlic, cheese, potato are just some of those that can come in handy, but there are many others that only our imagination can suggest.

The fundamental aspect of fishing with this type of baits inserted as we will see later in a special nylon net, lies in the fact that we can also fish with the same baits used for baiting, whether they are pellets, corn or the same dough we use to the creation of our favorite boil.

### **Preparation baits**

Choosing the baits to be used in our session, it will be necessary to use as previously mentioned a special nylon net wrapped on a tube, identical to the one we use for the creation of sticks (in fact the construction

process is identical), but that, unlike the latter, it is not water-soluble and will allow us to create exclusive primers with different volumes according to our needs.

This retina, the same used by those carp anglers who fish in lakes or stretches of river infested with shrimps, (see at Lake Raduta in Romania where 24mm boilies become 18mm after a few hours of fishing) is commercially available in different sizes and allows us to present soft baits such as bread, canned meat, cheese and batters with the possibility of forcing even our launch without having the fear of losing the bait during the journey.

The most used sizes are the 14mm one for mini primes with corn,



small pieces of garlic, pellets or seeds in general, and the 22mm one for thicker primers made with tuna or meat.

All we need to do is to manipulate our baits as best we can, the nylon retina, a primer needle and a plastic jar like the one used to store the maggots. After preparing some small pieces of tuna, sardine or meat with the help

of a knife, we will take the retina and start by creating a small knot at the end, then we will load a little bit of the bait chosen inside the tube.

By means of the plunger we will push the bait at the bottom of the tube and winding the net tightly over the bait we will make a second knot to lock it also from the other end. I highly

recommend creating different types of primers preferring those based on fish or meat for the spring-summer periods and those created with garlic or various seeds for those months where the water temperature is below 10 degrees.

Once we have finished packing our natural baits, we will keep

them in our jar, which we will be able to freeze, keeping their properties unaltered for a long time, just as we would for our food. One last bait, which I strongly suggest including in our nylon net and especially in the winter months, are the classic bigattini, which inserted in the quantity that we prefer will remain primarily protected by the minutaglia and at the same time emanate a strong smell irresistible to our carp.

## Terminals and Hooks

We just have to talk about choosing the most suitable terminals with which to present our natural baits. Nothing prevents us from giving vent to our inventiveness for their construction, but, based on my field tests, I suggest the use of three types of hooks that

for their construction characteristics represent the best choice for the use of these baits.

The first hook that we will employ will be a number 3 Fox point weapon with short stem and straight tip for an immediate penetration with an eyelet slightly bent inward, really suitable for the presentation of natural baits in general. The second choice will fall on a hook with a curved, short, highly effective, ultra-rugged pattern that produces a phenomenal seal in the mouth of the carp. The third and last choice, will lead us to the use

of a classic long-stem hook perfect for sinking presentations and “little man of snow” but at the same time able to enhance the effect of a construction with a “line aligner”, “knotless knot”, and anti-expulsion rig.

On these three types of hooks, we will mount two rubber rings with an oval stainless-steel ring in the center and inside it with the help of a small needle, we will insert an elastic band to and then we will hook our bait previously wrapped by the 22mm nylon retina.



Nothing prevents us from varying the presentation in water of our pitfalls, placing them completely on the bottom or presenting them detached from the same by adding a small floating sponge. The choice to build our rig with two rubbers and a ring, instead of creating the classic D-rig was not random, as we can move the grommets along the stem of the hook as we please (more towards the eyelet for sinking primers, more

towards the curvature for snowman primers or detached from the seabed) we will have the possibility to vary the presentation of the bait very easily.

### **My favorite natural baits are:**

- Clove of garlic
- Paste boiles
- Tuna
- Four or five grain of mais

### **Useful advices**

the construction of rigs

tries to keep as close as possible the bait wrapped by the retina to the stem of the hook because in the launch we will avoid that the same can hook to the tip of the same, placing itself in an unnatural once reached the bottom.

Connect our rig to soft yarn that can make our presentation in water as natural as possible, otherwise we can use a coated braided with



an anti-abrasion sheath useful if we fish near some submerged obstacle.

When we use the corn grains creating a real ball do not forget to insert inside the retina also a tiger-nut that will serve as a stopper for our firm boiles and we will be so sure that our soft bait does not come off easily from our rubber band.

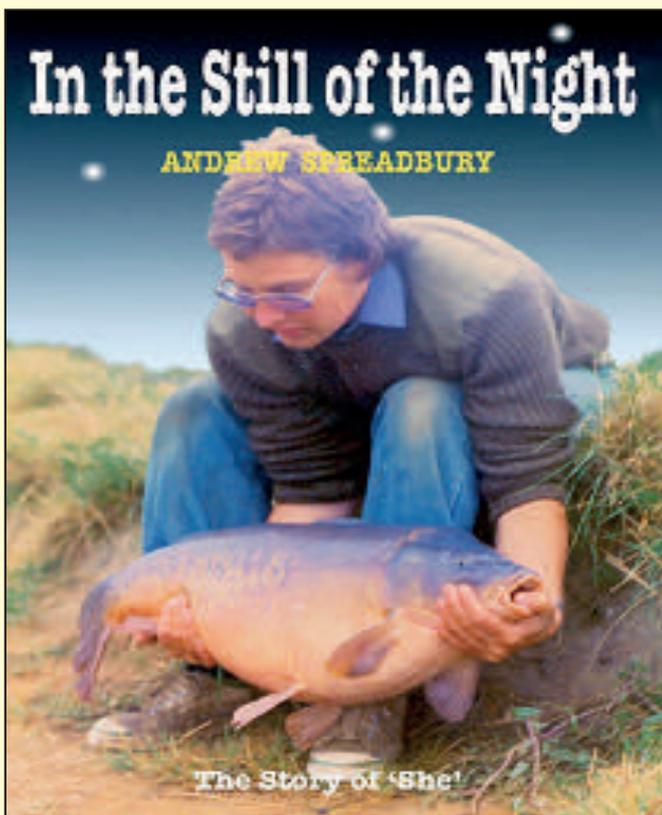
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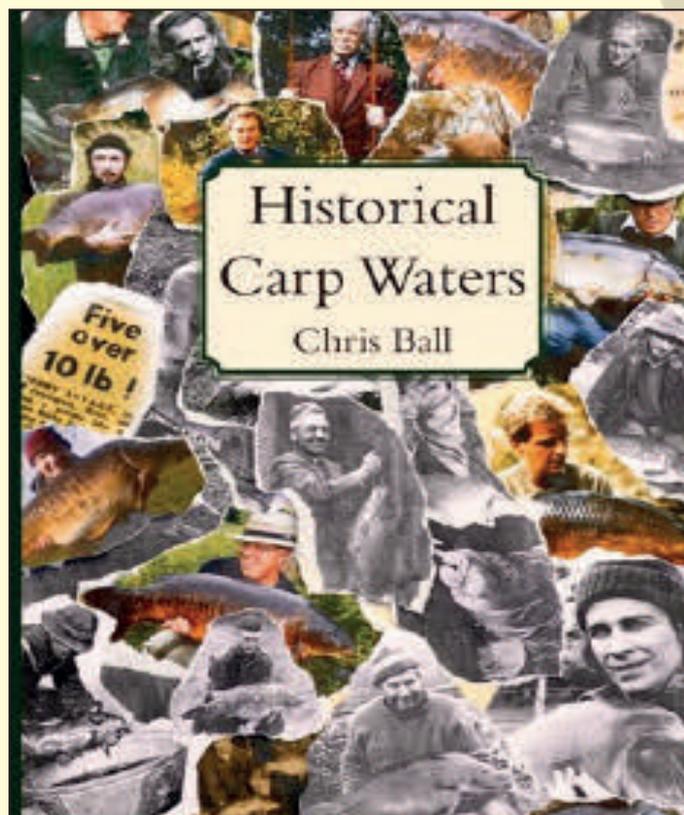
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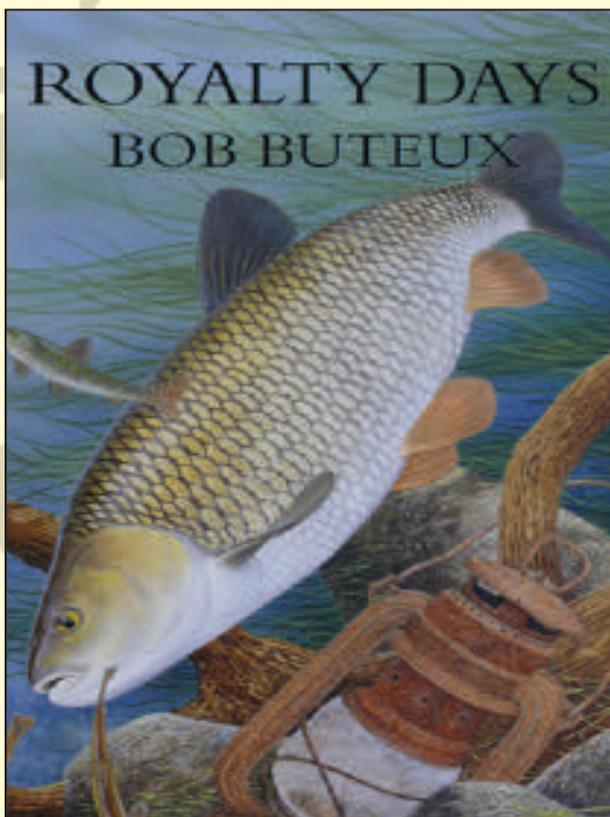
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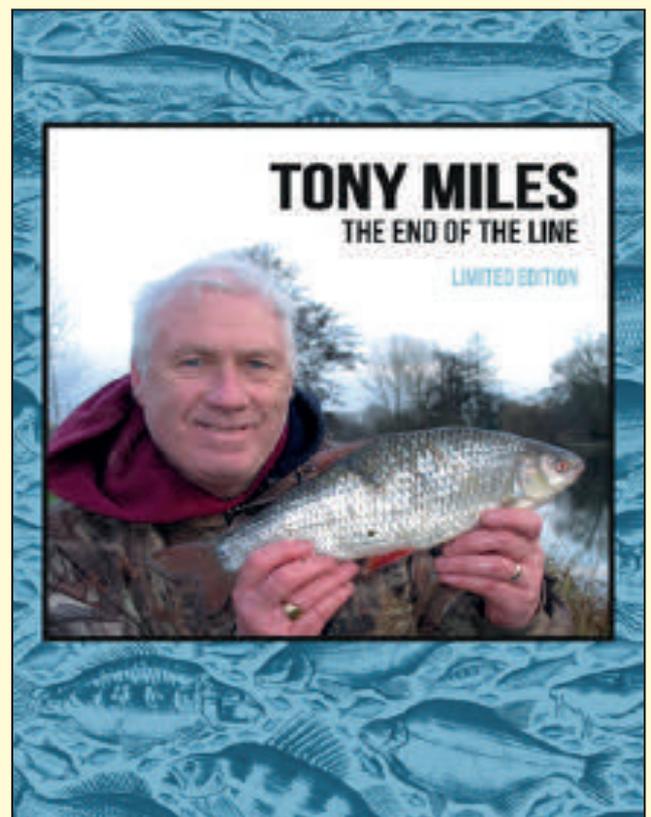
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*Syndicate  
Sessions 2018 by  
Matt Whalley*

## The Oaks – Summercourt, Newquay, Cornwall

Well what can I say apart from, I'm still absolutely buzzing!!

I headed up to my syndicate water with a good friend of mine for a bit of a social. Although conditions were not great, I had high hopes of continuing the run of form and I was hoping to see a carp or two grace the net...

The swims were chosen and the prep work was under way. I decided, although the weather was turning cold, to put in a mix of bait that I concocted up that consisted of – Crushed and whole Deep Blue Particles

SP-1 Boilies, Blood Worm Pellets and a splash of Liquid Beta stim out onto my chosen spots and sit three rigs presented nicely over the top. With all of this now in place, it was time to sit back, have a good catch up with my mate and let the waiting game begin.

The first night drew in and the alarms were very quiet indeed. I had nothing to report!!

I awoke on the Friday morning and a bitterly cold wind filled the bivvy when I dropped the door down. Low and behold it was starting to snow! A rare site in Cornwall. Although not put off, I brought all three rods in, checked all of the rigs and put some fresh hook baits on for the day ahead. For some reason, I was feeling very confident

today and right on cue at 10:30am the left-hand rod was away and I was into my first carp of the session. After a short battle, I slipped the net under a very welcomed 11lb 10oz Mirror Carp. I was off the mark. That feeling of dread when a blank can always be on the cards was gone and the high of the first carp under my belt for the trip was overwhelming! I wanted another now but the rest of the day went quiet with no more bites and the light was beginning to fade. Another cold night was fast approaching.



Just as I was thinking about getting into the bivvy and settling down for the night, I had one single beep on the same rod as the morning run. I stood over it in anticipation and fortunately the single beep became a full-blown take! I lifted the rod up and tightened down the clutch and instantly knew this was something special! The fight was completely different, the power of the first run was unreal and the battle commenced!!

Thankfully I was already in my Vass Waders and I had to get into the water to try and get this fish to turn. Finally, I had control!! After a long-dogged fight, she broke the surface and I could see in the faded light I had one of the Ghosties attached to the end of my line! My

heart was pounding and the adrenaline was pumping! With the net at the ready I guided one of the A Team in.

What a fish! What a fight! I had the 'Ghost Lin' sulking right there in front of me.

With everything at the ready, I removed my rig in the water from the carp's mouth and slipped the broken-down net into the weigh sling. I checked

all the fins were lying flat and just to be 100% sure I checked again before moving her from the water's edge to the mat. I was absolutely ecstatic. With the scales already zeroed, it was time to see what weight she was at. 29lb 10oz the scales settled on and for a Winter February Carp, I was absolutely blown away!!

My ever-faithful J Precision size 4 curves on a Ronnie Rig set



up did not let me down and my Rhino Beams helped light the scene for those all-important shots.

Yes!!!! This is why we do what we do, those special captures make the cold, dark, wet winter sessions that little bit more bearable. Two carp on this session with one of the A Team. If someone said to me before I went, "Matt, you're going to catch The Ghost Lin" I would have said, "If only" but it happened. This Lake

is something special. It holds a lot of Scaly Mirrors, big Commons but also some very big Ghost Carp. So far, I have only scratched the surface. There are many more target fish I would like and with one known carp in particular called 'Patch' which is a 35lb+ Ghostie. Fingers crossed I will see this one sometime soon.

With the session now at an end it was time to pack down and head on back to reality. I know one thing for sure though, the smile never

left my face all the way home. Thank you 'The Oaks' and I'll see you again very soon.

2018 is most definitely being kind to me and I hope this run of fortunate luck continues.

Bring on the next trip!!

Matt Whalley – [www.cornishcarper.blog](http://www.cornishcarper.blog)

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**In The Dark Forest?**  
**Carping Capers in the Army by Stuart Abbott**

## In The Dark Forest?

### **Carping Capers in the Army by Stuart Abbott**

For this piece I wanted to explore the times I spent overseas, mainly Germany. As part of my regiments posting cycle we moved every 2 years. This can go two ways, for some guys they love the variety where some would prefer the stability of staying in one place. However, from a carp fishing perspective this can be a pain, knowing what I know now however it may have been a little different. Now we all know there are some massive fish in Germany but at the time I was still finding my feet with the whole session angling side of life. The one biggest drama I had was the inability to actually speak German, the talking very loud and very slow only got me so far. I do remember drawing a few pictures with the woman who owned a garden centre just outside Celle, I must say my artistic rendition of a classic mirror carp was gleaming.

There were three lakes that I fished in the local area. A massive lake near the town of Oldendorf; I never really got my teeth into that place it was huge and windswept but I have no doubt there was and still is some massive carp in there. The second one was a lake actually inside the wire, behind the officers mess. This was a lovely little venue with some stunning carp. The third was a gravel pit that we found in the forest, now, I cannot remember the name of it for the life of me but the adventure that came afterwards I will remember forever.

As with a few carp anglers I've met over the years, spending long periods of time outside you start to get attuned to the environment around you. As part of the Infantry being outside was definitely one thing we were used to. I think the height of this was curling up in the back of a four tonne truck at 0100hrs wet through in January to a blue cylume (Glo stick you used to have a raves) for warmth as the truck containing our warm kit had left!! This was the moment I realised that even though the army had trained me

well you can never beat a good hallucination session in the back of a truck while cuddling a rave stick. So back to my story, we had been looking for a few off the radar places to fish and had been google earthing back when you needed a laptop and driving for hours looking for places to go.

We eventually found a lake, so turning off the main highway we had driven past the turn off a hundred times. We turned off and drove a good ten kilometers down this track leading through the German woods these things are massive row after row of trees and its always dark and always a bit strange, then this gate appeared by this point we were loosing hope. The other side of the gate was a different ball game and the forest opened up to this ten acre gravel pit. This body of water was stunning blue water crystal clear and the sun shining straight trough the trees. Then the old man appeared and obviously didn't speak a word of English the squaddie saying "ein Bier bitte" was not helping. So we walked the lake spotting a few fish in the clear water. So the plan was coming together but due to work commitments it was going to be a few weeks until we could return. We decided that we needed to let the old man know

we weren't some kind of serial killers and that our intentions were pure. This then led to Great Translation, we wrote a letter and translated it into German he then wrote a reply we took it away translated it then replied back. Eventually the rules were established and the cost arranged cant help but think that would be a lot easier nowadays.



So the day had arrived the car was packed and off we went, we arrived at the lake mid morning and the gate was closed, now this hadn't been the case for any of the previous visits during the Great Translation. We opened the gate and proceeded to unpack the gear, the old man wasn't there presuming he had gone for food or normal day to day stuff. Now I think it's only fair to explain what this caravan/living quarters looked like, there were two large caravans joined together with an area of decking, both had started to look at little old and a little tired. There was moss growing up the sides, the windows were covered by old curtains. He also liked pot plants and wind chimes but most had seen better days. We set up, found a couple of spots and proceeded to fish. Back then it was more about the social aspect than just catching carp but it was nice down there in the sun. As the night drew in it started getting really dark, now for those reading this who have been to a German forest it gets Dark! Very dark.

So there we were sitting in the pitch black hoping a carp will come our way very soon , then all of a sudden we started hearing foot steps. Assuming that the old man had come back we went over to see him just to let him know we were there, we went over to the decking shouted "Hallo" Hello in English but with no answer at all. We just presumed he must have gone straight to bed. Now being in the military we have a saying, "Presumption is the mother of all ?????? Ups" well the night continued with foot steps the odd flicker of a light but not a carp in sight. The next morning we walked over to the caravan to say hallo again and nothing at all, we even tried the door and they were both locked. Now I will let you into a little secret I am a bit of geek when it comes to the paranormal and I do enjoy a bit of Ghost Adventures on an evening. (not on my own though). So while we thought this was a bit strange we didn't think much of it too be fair. The second night came and the foot steps continued and they had also moved onto the decking outside the caravans. Some of the pots had also been heard moving a clinking together. Things were starting to get very strange and I'm not going to lie there were now grown men huddled together with every torch we had switched on. However in true British Army fashion we soldiered on but didn't sleep a wink.

The next morning came and we investigated the caravans again banging and shouting with no answer at all, the fishing had completely fell by the waist side now. We had still convinced ourselves that there was an explanation for everything, animals, wind and the old man just being strange. About an hour later a tall well groomed German in a bright red jacket turned up and made his way straight out to us. Luckily he spoke perfect English and the first thing we asked was the whereabouts of the old man? Oh I'm sorry to inform you he is dead! He died in the caravan a week ago. The man in the red jacket turned out to be his son and that he also hadn't seen him for some time. We proceeded to explain the Spooky goings on and the man simply replied "it doesn't surprise me" at this point the gear was in the car as quick as we could physically get it. We then spent the next couple of months weighing up the options of spending a night at the haunted lake versus catching some of the stunning fish in there. I will admit to you I never went back to the lake, I was more worried about him trying to get the money for the previous session out of me one night in my bivvy.

Stuart Abbott.





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# Carp Events (Part 2) – The history of the FCC..!!

By Tim Gray



So welcome back for Part 2 of this three part series on carp events. You return to the end of 2008 and I've made the decision to talk to Russ Marsh about joining me and making the BACC (British Army Carp Classic) the best event out there.

We had many chats over the coming few weeks with a few new ideas coming from Russ but he was dead keen to join me and help run the event, which proved just what a right choice I'd made. He did at first try extremely hard to say that we could fish as well as run the event but after I discussed this more with him he soon realised that this was not such a good idea.

After all these years of sorting, planning and organising events I will argue till I'm blue in

the face with ANYONE that as an organiser and if you want your "event" (however big or small) to be the very best it can be, then you just can't do both.! Fish & run the event just doesn't work at all in any case either one suffers (your fishing) or the other suffers (your event).

One of the major things that Russ wanted to change was to open the event up to all Services, invite the Navy & RAF. Up until this point as the name suggested it was just open to the Army but as they can be extremely busy & called back for work at the last minute it was a great call. The other thing he wanted to change was the name? If we were opening it up to all three services now we couldn't really call it the BACC so a new name had to be found.

I'm not exactly sure where the name came from or who said it first but we chose the Forces Carp Classic or FCC as many call it. So the next thing to decide was the venue for our first FCC to be held out in France. Now as you can imagine there are loads of big lakes about in France but choosing the best one is always going to be a difficult thing. What sort of venue are you after? Runs water or big fish? One lake or several? Facilities & food? Many things have to be discussed and it did take us many hours to draw up a short list of possible venues.

But in late November with the weather just beginning to show signs of the winter approaching the M20 would find us both travelling down it, to meet in Folkestone,

switch cars and then travel over to France on our first recce (reconnoitre) of some four venues. That weekend went very quickly but sadly none of the venues seemed to tick all the boxes or even as many as possible (you can never get everything you are after / looking for can you). So over Xmas and New Year we both got very busy with searching the internet for other possible venues. Come the end of February and we were on our umpteenth meeting when we had a eureka moment and came across Abbey lakes. Now Abbey had been the first venue

Id taken anyone too back in 2000 (just five people) and very little had been heard about the venue up until recently when it had started to produce some really big fish. So more digging around and some great information was brought up about the venue now. Some three lakes on site, facilities and big fish to name a few, so a few phone calls were made and an invitation by the owner Sebastian to come over for a visit, a look around and by chance of a little fish – if we wanted too..!! Don't look a gift horse in the mouth as my mother often said, so yes we'd love to.

We cleared it at home with our wives and of course with work and away we went, it was the middle of April and some nice sunny weather forecast. The trip over went without a hitch and a very smooth & short 1hr 45mins before we were pulling up at the Abbey Lakes complex. It was late Thursday night and we grabbed a few hours' sleep in the car before getting up Friday morning to meet Seb at 0900.

A short planned meeting with Seb ending up being a lot longer than that, but he had lots to show us and lots to discuss. He



really enjoyed everything we wanted to do for our event and he also enjoyed the fact that we are Military and both would be there running the event. We assured him there would be no trouble from us or those fishing our event. After a tour of the venue where he showed us the lakes Attila, Heron & Fox it was down to more business as things looked very good.

There was a further three lakes – two which the French anglers fished for silver fish (this went on to become just one lake, known as Wildboar) and another lake

Kingfisher home of some big catfish and very few carp. Both were going to get worked on and stock was coming in the near future, this was all happening over the coming years but for now we couldn't use them, maybe in the future he said...how little did he know!

He gave us a spot on Heron to fish for the rest of Friday (not a lot left), Saturday and half day on Sunday as we'd both have to be back to work come Monday morning. It was Peg 17 fishing the small bay between the spit and island swims, it was great to be fishing despite the presence

of a lot of weed! I'd fished many a weedy lake back in UK but it was a new experience for Russ. Eventually he found a couple of spots and we were fishing, whilst we sat there waiting, like you do a lot carp fishing. We discussed the pros & cons of the venue & what we'd have to do and which lake to use. After a lot of discussion over a cup of tea? (What else? OK OK it might have been a bottle of red wine or two) we decided that we'd speak to Seb about using Heron lake exclusively and have the event on that lake, home of some monsters. Next was when? We discussed



previously that we both couldn't really get time off through the summer as both wives loved their holidays so we were left with early spring time or late summer / start of winter. After talking through the merits of both we decided that October was the best time, fish feed hard in that month before getting into their winter hibernation time (November / December) so that was that settled just need to speak to Seb again about exact dates.

During Saturday afternoon Russ had a screaming run on his right hand rod which then resulted in it getting weeded heavily and it just wouldn't move. Luckily for him he had a gilly (yes me!) on hand to go out into the water, net in hand, to capture his prize. I stripped off less for a thin t-shirt & pants and although warming up nicely the chill in the water became very apparent when a scream (yes a girlie scream) was heard from me as the water went over my meat &

tackle!! However we did manage to land the fish with me swimming out to net it before returning to the bank with Russ prize. A cheeky 37lb 10 mirror for our efforts, or more correctly my swimming attributes. Although I think the Dutch lads opposite were laughing the loudest especially after my screaming.!

We left after talking to Seb to secure the dates and all was good in the world. After getting back to UK it was time to speak



to our web designer about building a new website for us and the first ever FCC was on its way. Now I could really go on for pages about running and sorting an event out but I suppose most of you would be bored and will have switched off by the second page so I won't do that!

Suffice to say there is a lot to sort & organise if you want your event to be the best it can be, and that's exactly what both Russ & I have always tried to organise and we think we've done that over

the years.

That first year we booked on 28 anglers and all fished the glorious Heron Lake which looked magnificent in all its glory. We decided that our event would be best suited to a 'pairs' event which meant that we had 14 x pairs spread all around the lake. We felt it best to sort the competition out into a pair's event, that way there is always someone at the peg / rods whilst the other can go to the toilet or shower or even go

shopping. It's just easier that way and has worked well in all of our events to date.

In 2009 we pegged the entire lake of heron from swim 1 through to 23 which was a massive mistake and we learnt from in coming years. None of the pairs from the point swim down towards the bottom back (entrance side pegs 1-6 & 19-23) caught anything. We'd placed too many rods in the narrow channel area and all the fish had stayed up by the island and back bay





back bay. Lesson learnt there then and that wouldn't happen again. We also decided that we'd like to have a break in midweek to hold another BBQ and get everyone together which really was a great idea and still happens today. It gives the lakes a rest from all rods (all are brought in) and gives the fish a chance to move around, not that we can guarantee that but it's nice to think they will.

Well the event went really well despite us

not really catching the amount of fish we thought but looking back Heron is a hard water and it's not easy to get any of its jewels out so we were happy. The first ever FCC Champions were Dave Hollis & Scott Bradbury with 6 fish to 56.08lbs they were very happy especially as the big mirror was Scott's new pb mirror.

Since that time the event has just grown and grown beyond our wildest dreams, and listed below are some figures to read through:

- 2009 1 Lake (Heron) 28 anglers
- 2010 2 Lakes (Heron & Fox) 38 anglers
- 2011 3 Lakes (Heron, Fox & Attila) 60 anglers
- 2012 4 Lakes (Heron, Fox, Attila & Kingfisher) 72 anglers
- 2013 4 Lakes (Heron, Fox, Attila & Kingfisher) 84 anglers
- 2014 (S) 2 Lake (Heron & Fox) 38 anglers
- 2014 (W) 5 Lakes (Heron, Fox, Attila, Kingfisher & Wildboar) 92 anglers
- 2015 (S) 1 Lakes (Heron) 28 anglers
- 2015 (W) 5 Lakes (Heron, Fox, Attila, Kingfisher & Wildboar) 92 anglers

- 2016 5 Lakes  
(Heron, Fox, Attila,  
Kingfisher & Wildboar)  
100 anglers
- 2017 5 Lakes  
(Heron, Fox, Attila,  
Kingfisher & Wildboar)  
100 anglers

We have sat at 100 anglers (50 x pairs) for the last two years now and that's simply because currently I believe it's the most you can get on the 5 lakes at Abbey without having any issues i.e. arguments over water! I know other events have had 75 x pairs on there (where?????) but I think that's way too many and the lakes do not lend themselves to that amount of pairs. Now that's not to say we don't have arguments or anglers creeping, we do but a simple chat with both pairs or the very rare marker rod cast out and all is good.



Russ and I always stand in each swim as we mark out the lakes and say to each other "would we be happy fishing here?" If the answer is yes then it's ok, if it's a no then why not? Can we change it? What do we need to do to make it better?

We did try out a smaller "summer" event in 2014 & 15 but sadly despite the initial interest there was just not the overall interest there to keep this

event going. So after a struggle for two years trying to fill the summer events we decided to can it and stop. We can then concentrate on our October baby (giant).

We have a great relationship with everyone at Abbey Lakes and especially the owner, Sebastian which is exactly how you'd want it. Going back to 2009 all we signed for with Seb was for initially three

initially three events, so three years but each year we continue to come back again, the venue just does tick all the right boxes. This year we celebrate our 10th Anniversary event and have lots of extra special things planned for those attending. In fact each year now he just hands Russ & myself the keys to the place and clears off!! He knows he can trust us, he knows we will & do look after his venue like it's our own and above all he respects what we do & how we do it. To say its run with military precision is an understatement, everything has its place and everyone knows what they need to do & when (just look at the



group event picture).

So that's about all for the FCC and its growth which has been truly spell binding and way beyond our hopes. But when you have invited guest, namely Bev Clifford saying "that this is truthfully the best run carp event she has ever attended, that the attention to detail is second to none and that how we do it with just the two of us is unbelievable" then we are happy because we must be doing something right?





In the final part of this series I'll discuss and go through all the Army events that have shaped Army Carpers from its creation in 2001 up until now.

Until then be lucky and tight lines to you all, don't forget to say hello if your ever on the bank near me? The kettle is always on, but bring the Malted Milk

biscuits...

Cheers Tim







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Welcome to Armycarpers



Well it's nearly at that time of year now, when the weather (he says with his fingers crossed) is getting a bit warmer and hopefully some more sunshine is on its way. But it's also getting that much lighter in both the mornings and evenings, which is a sure sign that "spring" is nearly upon us.

Let's hope that all of you can get those rods out and get some time on the bank in the coming months? For some of you it'll be the time of year when you dust off the kit and get ready for that first session of the year. Whilst some of the more hard core anglers will have already been fishing throughout the winter time, was that you? How did you get on?

I am lucky in that I have a lovely secluded syndicate water very

close to me (well 25mins) that I try to fish on a regular basis. In fact this winter time, I have tried to go at least once a week since the start of November, but then I do have an understanding wife! Whatever your circumstances it's all about a bit of give & take, the worst thing you can do as a "married" man is go fishing all the time as it's not really fair despite probably wanting too. It's also probably not the best idea for a long marriage and can lead to problems & many arguments, but try to ensure that your other half also has a hobby or something to do and that way you "BOTH" get that me time..!!

So what's happening within Army Carpers then you ask? Well we've completed our first Qualifying Event (QE) 1 back

in November with 12 x Pairs fishing at Newlands Hall fishery in deepest darkest Essex. It was a funny event with not much out the first 12hrs but following that off went the fish and all hell broke loose. Despite the long range weather forecast looking really good for the event, when it actually came to that weekend it turned out terrible conditions with some freezing weather. Not exactly the most conducive for catching carp, however a few pairs managed to do just that. The winning pair was Lewis Burton & Tom Hughes with 27 fish for 270lbs with Mark Smith & Ian Reed in second place with 23 fish for nearly 215lbs, which means our current leaderboard, is as follows:

Pos.	Name	Corps	Points – QE1
1	Lewis Burton	RE	11
2	Tom Hughes	RE	11
3	Mark Smith	ExMil	10
4	Ian Reed	ExMil	10

The winners get 10 points for winning the event and another point for attending so hence the 11 points for our leaders. But that's only after one event and we have another four to go so it's all very much up for grabs. To do well and possibly win the 'Overall Champions' you really need to fish at least three events & place within all of those. A first and a couple of thirds will certainly put you right up there in contention. It was also nice to see a couple of Ex-Military Members fishing the event, all Serving members of the Army are 'very' welcome but also any Ex-serving, they are also able to

fish all events. So if you fancy a bit of a challenge and enjoy the 'match' side of carp fishing – the challenge to beat other military guys then give me an email and I will send you details.

As this article is being written the spaces for the next QE event are

filling up nicely, with an event put on in April, May, June and July. After the 5 x QE events it's on to the Army Carp Championships and then straight to the Inter Corps Carp Championships in September with the penultimate event the Inter Services set for the end of September. This year the event is being run by the RAF (booooo, onlykidding) when they will endeavour to complete another white wash.





They are always very strong in the ISCC and have justifiably won more than the other two services put together. But you never know either the Navy (Senior Service) or the Army could take the title this year!!

If you are interested in any of the events above then just give myself Tim Gray a shout by emailing me on [tjgray1968@](mailto:tjgray1968@)

[hotmail.co.uk](mailto:hotmail.co.uk) and I will give you all the details about our events. Likewise though, if you are Serving or Ex-Serving in the RAF or Royal Navy I have their Secretaries contact details and can pass you on to them. What have you got to loose, give us a shout and join the growing membership and get out on the bank with the Armycarpers Armycarpers or your

Services Carp Section.

Look out for our Bi-Monthly Newsletter which covers all things going on within the Group but also what to look out for in the future. It also contains all the details about the different Corps Carp groups as each does (RA, REME, INF, RS etc) just send me an email and I will ensure that you get in touch with the right person.

Of course on an even better plus side we have access to many trade accounts with various different tackle & bait companies which could have you hundreds of pounds. But remember these “offers” are ONLY open to members of the Forces or Ex-Forces so do not brag about them or abuse them as we will lose them all.

Tight lines and good luck with all your fishing that you do and maybe, just maybe we can entice you to join the Armycarpers. You could very soon be fishing alongside likeminded anglers who just so happen to be soldiers at the same time as you.

There will be so much more to talk about in the next edition as QE

2 will have happened and I will get some feedback from those attending but for now, good luck.

Tight lines

Tim Gray  
Press Officer  
AAF Gp8 Carp



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# TALKING - REVIEWS

**GARY LOWE REVIEWS -**

**KRYSTON MAGMA,  
MAINLINE HIGH IMPACT  
HOOKBAIT, MAINLINE PASTE**

## Magma Armour Coated Braid

Carp fishing is never the same; when we visit new places there are venues that can be brutal on our normal choice of tackle.

Rocks, boulders, razor mussels, abrasive weed and more all take their toll. Its times like this we have to up the ante.

New Magma armour coated super braid. Especially developed for fishing over rough terrain and extreme snag ridden swims. Super abrasion resistant Spectra is blended with similar bullet proof fibre and tightly woven into a super strength line.

Following braiding it's then encapsulated with an ultra tough armour plated coating to resist abrasion. Rigorously tested on volcanic lakes in Italy where harsh abrasive balsamic rocks and boulders litter the bottom this exceptional new super coated braid proved itself to be an outstanding success. Highly recommended for waters where normal braided lines cannot cope and for waters that demand nothing but the best.

MAGMA....Tough stuff!



## High Impact Hookbait Enhancement System

Ive use the Mainline High Impact range Hookbait Enhancement System dips in all my fishing it helps to boost the attraction level of my hookbaits, if i really want to boost the attraction of my baits i add a whole bottle into a bag then add my free bait to it, shake it up and leave for a few hours so that the baits take on the flavour ,then when the baits are in the swim it slowly leaks out and draw fish from all levels

Utilising our exclusive High Impact flavours, as well as a list of proven sweeteners and attractors, these PVA friendly liquids are ideal to use in solid bags or just poor over pva stocking bags.

The High impact range of dips are 100% Water Soluble and pva freindly so they are ideal for solid bags and your pva mesh bags the dips come in a 175 ml plastic screw top bottle and are available in these flavour.

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 50/50 Fruit-Tella  
 Diamond Whites

PVA Friendly

Available in 175ml plastic  
 screw-top bottles:

Salty Squid  
 Peaches & Cream  
 Essential IB  
 Banoffee  
 Spicy Crab  
 High Leakage Pineapple  
 50/50 Fruit-Tella  
 Diamond Whites



## Dedicated Freezer Range Paste

The Mainlines range of Pastes are made from the dedicated base mix and were initially designed for carp anglers who wanted to make customised hookbaits with cork balls etc. but I sometimes use it to boost the attraction of my hookbaits. All I do is take a little bit of paste out of the tub and wrap it around my hook bait. Once it's in the water it will give off a large amount of smell and attraction that should draw the fish to your

hookbait

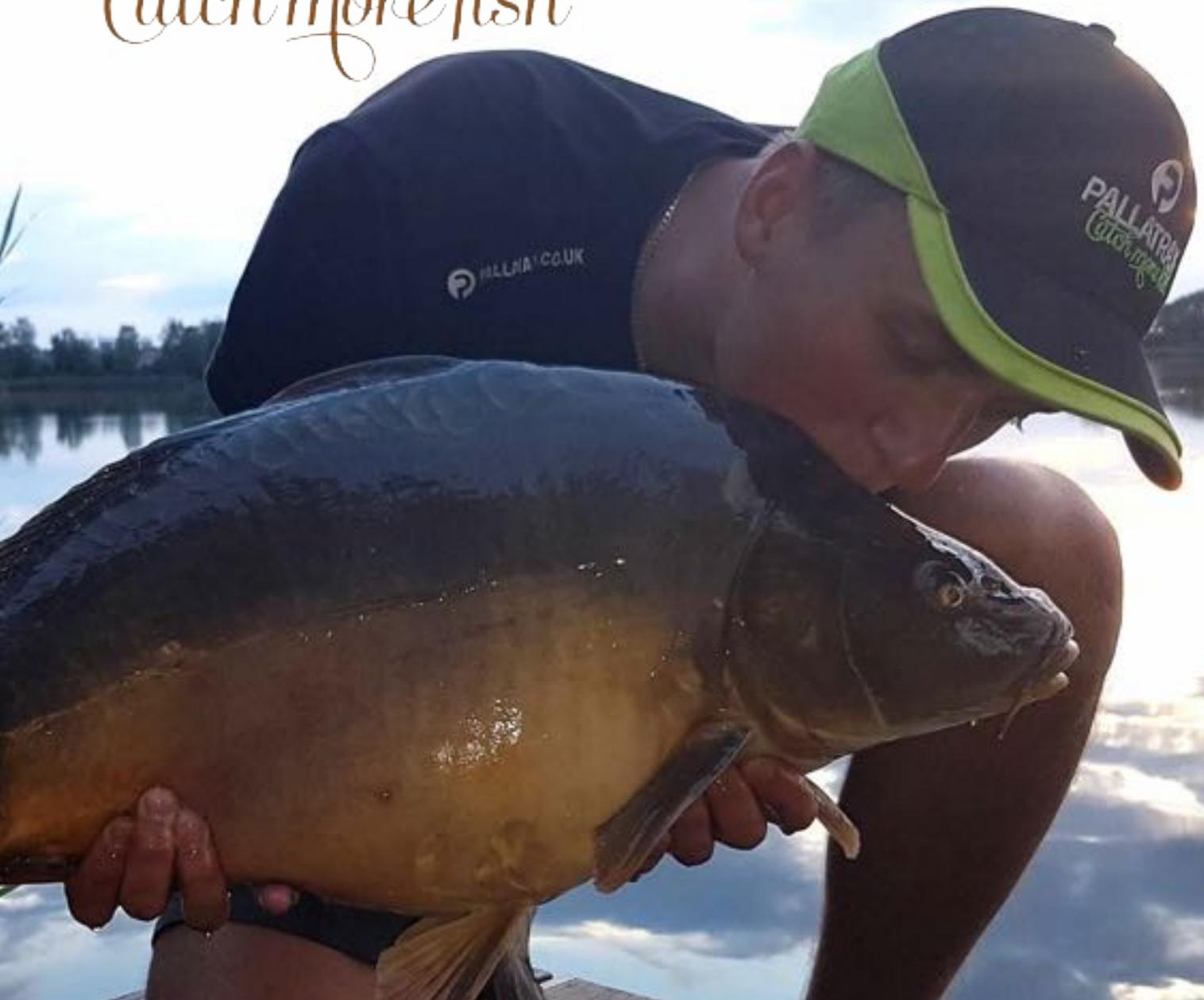
These frozen pastes are available from all good stockists and come in a handy 200g tub. They can be used after thawing for two hours or kept in the freezer for later use.

Available in:

The Link (Available Spring 2018) Essential Cell, Hybrid, New Grange, Cell. Activ-8



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# Catch Reports

*Featuring -*

Chris Kirk  
Brooms Cross Fishery  
Lee Hudson  
Scott & Connor Hatton  
Pallatrax  
Castaway PVA



Chris Kirk has had 2 fantastic fish from The Avenue again this week. Landing the Creamfish at a huge 47lb 6oz and also Jacko at 39lb. Retro baits 12mm Superfruit pop up on top of 10mm Shropshire colds working an absolute treat for Chris! Well done pal.



# Brooms Cross Fishery

Specimen carp and coarse

Mike Williams  
with another  
Brooms Cross  
cracker



Mike Williams 23lb4oz



# Brooms Cross Fishery

Specimen carp and coarse



Pallatrax man Mike Williams seems to be catching all the fish this week



and coarse



**\*\* Lee Hudson's Blog\*\***

The day started with my first session on my new syndicate, I've been wanting to fish it since January when I paid for the ticket.

The plan was not to fish it for the first few days of the new season because I thought it would be full, having been Easter Sunday and bank holiday Monday.

I felt sick with anticipation I have not felt like that since I was a kid at Christmas.

Not knowing if it was full or not I couldn't believe my eyes when I arrived and made my way through the gate.

There was not a soul in sight me and my good friend had the entire place to ourselves to say I was buzzing was an understatement.

After a lap or 2 of the lake and with nothing to go on I decided on a swim called "the point" which had done a fish or two before the end of the season. It had feature in particular that screamed carp.

The first spot was in the margin 15 raps out down to my left.

The other two rods were again placed fifteen raps out in open water my plan was to create a feature using a bed of bait. The open water rods were fished using hinged stiff rigs with UberNutz pop ups my thinking was that as I was getting a soft drop likely to be silt I wanted to present a hook bait over it. I also didn't want to lead about too much and disturb any fish in the swim. The margin rod was fished on a slight drop off where it felt hard and clean. So, the rig I decided to use was a fluorocarbon D ring with it being so clean I knew I could get good presentation with it. The hook bait on that was a trimmed down 15mm UberNutz waffer. I then set about crushing a kilo of UberNutz boilies and applied it to the margin spot.

I then baited the open water swim with whole UberNutz using a throwing stick.

Over an hour and a half went by before the margin rod was away it felt like a good fish at first but then seemed to just stop fighting. It came in really easy after that and I said to my friend it could be one of the huge bream that share the lake. It was then a boil hit the surface followed by a big dark carp that just bobbed up in front of me. In the net she went first time

I could not believe it 18 years of carp fishing and I have got my first UK 30 at 34lb 8oz.



Scott and Connor Hatton



# *Phat Fish*







**PALLATRAX**  
*Catch more fish*



David Jones did a 2 hour session on Todber Manor , fishing Gripz Hooks and the Stonze system



**PALLATRAX**  
*Catch more fish*



Heath Merrick with a 23lb caught using the Gripz hooks and Stonze system



**PALLATRAX**  
*Catch more fish*



Adam Hale  
sneaking  
out his  
local park  
carp



Christian Watts with a lovely common caught on the Jungle hookbait on the back of a size 4 Pallatrax The Hook





Lee Chamberlain with a P.B 24lb common caught on Jungle bait on the back of a size 8 Gripz hook





Mark Longley 25lb 9oz on size 4 Gripz and Stonze system set up





**PALLATRAX**  
*Catch more fish*

Pete and Mandy Chapman fished Stafford Moor with Mandy getting a new pb of 18lb 11oz





**PALLATRAX**  
*Catch more fish*

Russell Ingrem with a P.B 32lb common after switching to the Pallatrax Stonze System



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# Castaway PVA



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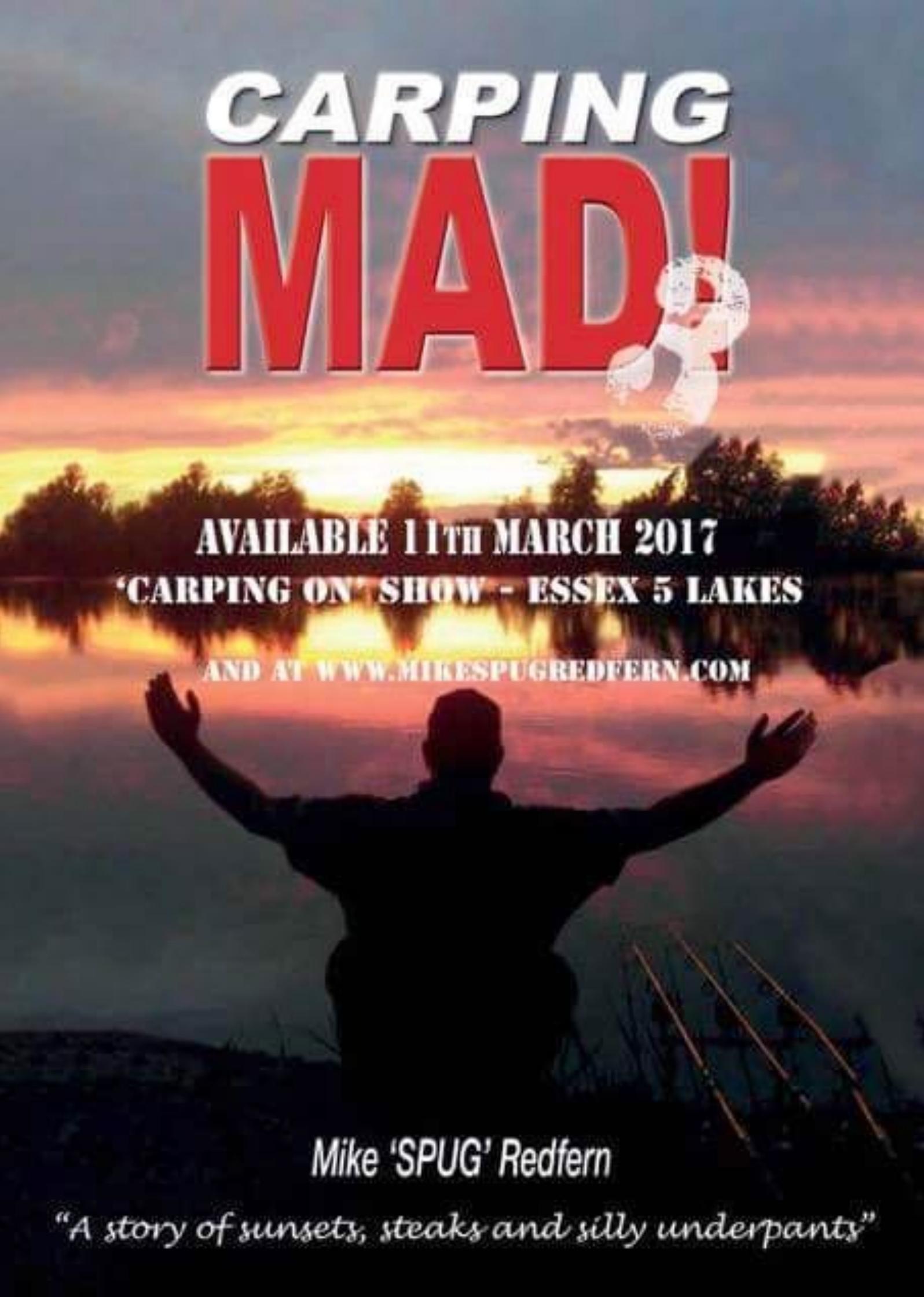
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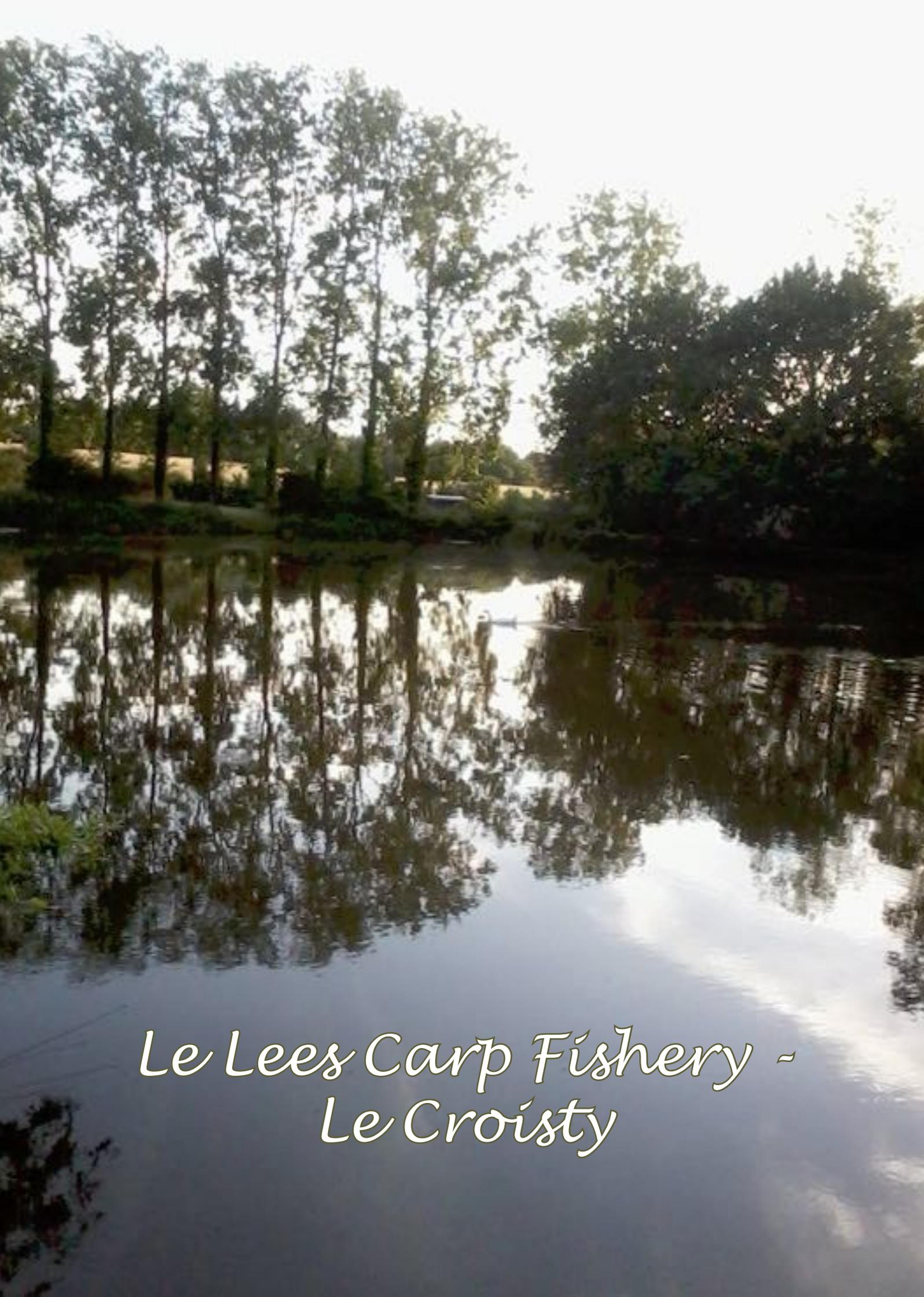
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*Talking  
Foreign  
Featuring -*

Le Lees - France

Ebro Fishing Dreams



*Le Lees Carp Fishery -  
Le Croisty*

## Welcome everyone to LE LEES Carp Fishery.

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Le Lees Carp Fishery

133

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

We also do an evening meal at 50 euros pppw.

Lake exclusive for upto 5 carpers with an evening meal is 750 euros pw.

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

At the moment we are doing a deal for any week this year ( if booked before the end of march 2018) you can get lake exclusive for upto 5 carpers with evening meal for 600 euros.

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

We also do a membership which runs from when you join for 1 year for 500 euros PP. Membership card and key supplied.

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

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

Tight lines and may the carp gods bless you all. Best wishes

*Matt, Tracie and Thai.*



*Le Lees Ca*



*arp Fishery*

A close-up photograph of a textured metal surface, possibly a tool or part of a machine, with a brass-colored pen resting on it. The metal has a pattern of raised, rounded rectangular shapes. The pen is positioned diagonally across the frame, with its tip pointing towards the bottom right. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the metallic sheen and the texture of the surface.

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**Page 95** - Hazy's Tackle

**Page 14** - Hooked On Baits

**Page 49** - Kudos

**Page 128** - Kryston

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**Page 114 - 115** - Phat fish

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*Thankyou for reading and as  
always your continued support*

Please send your articles and catch reports by  
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