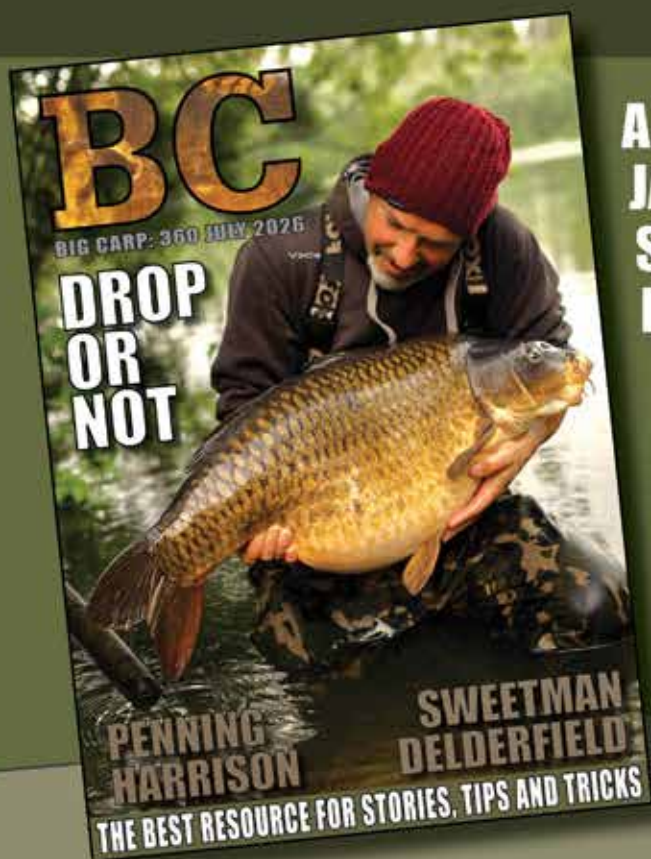


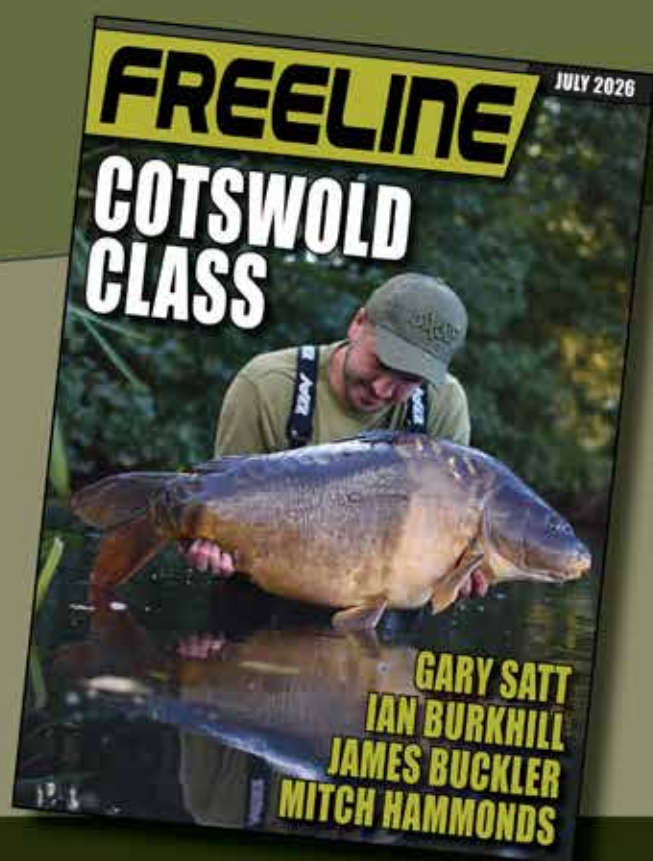
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JAMES HARRISON - DROPPING LEADS
SCOTT SWEETMAN - RIG PREP
ELLIOTT GRAY - MY GO-TO RIG**

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3	SANDHURST
4	FARLOWS LAKE
5	COKING FARM
6	NORTON DISNEY
7	OAK LAKES FISHERY
8	BERNERS HALL
9	CEFN MABLY
10	CROMWELL

TOP 10 FRENCH HOLIDAY VENUES

1	IKTUS
2	ABBAY LAKES
3	CRETE LAKES
4	BRITTANY FOREST
5	GIGANTICA
6	RAINBOW
7	THE AQUARIUM
8	DREAM LAKES
9	FISHABIL
10	RIBIERE

TOP 10 BAIT COMPANIES

1	MAINLINE BAITS
2	STICKY BAITS
3	DYNAMITE BAITS
4	CC MOORE
5	TARGET BAITS
6	NUTRABAITS
7	DNA BAITS
8	URBAN BAITS
9	DAVE MALLIN BAITS
10	GOODZ CARP BAITS



TOP 10 END TACKLE COMPANIES

1	ESP
2	KORDA
3	FOX
4	THINKING ANGLERS
5	GARDNER
6	TRAKKER
7	BANK TACKLE
8	NASH TACKLE
9	CARP ONLINE
10	AVID

TOP 10 CARP FISHING BRANDS

1	DAIWA
2	SHIMANO
3	REUBEN HEATON
4	SOLAR
5	JAG
6	FREESPIRIT
7	FOX
8	TRAKKER
9	CHILTERN RODS
10	KUDOS

TOP 10 CARP TACKLE SHOPS

1	JOHNSON ROSS
2	THE TACKLE BOX
3	YATELEY ANGLING CENTRE
4	ANGLING DIRECT NORWICH
5	POINGDESTRES
6	KESWALLS
7	ANGLING DIRECT BIRMINGHAM
8	ANGLING DIRECT SIMPSONS
9	TACKLE UP
10	ANGLING DIRECT CHELMSFORD

TOP 10 ICONIC CARP LAKES

1	REDMIRE
2	YATELEY
3	WRAYSBURY
4	SAVAY
5	FOX POOL
6	HORTON
7	CASSIEN
8	LINCHHILL
9	ROACH PIT
10	JOHNSON'S RAILWAY

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CUSTOMER REVIEWS

Big shoutout to the lads at Digger Boats Ltd
I've been living onsite at Carthage Fisheries for
23 years now, and we've had plenty of work done
over the years... but this one tops the lot!

We've been fighting a losing battle with reeds tak-
ing over the entrance to one of our bays for a few
years now. Even tried getting in ourselves with dry
suits and pulling them out by hand absolutely brutal
work and getting nowhere fast... was starting to
think we'd lose the bay completely.

On top of that, the carp were loving it — hiding in
the reeds and becoming a nightmare to catch
We'd had other companies in before with weed boats,
but if I'm honest, the results just weren't great.

Got James from Digger Boats in, he came down,
had a proper look and got stuck in... and what a job
they've done!

3 days later and the place has been completely
transformed it's something I've wanted sorted for
years and it's finally done.

Already this spring we've had over 22 fish out —
including a few we haven't seen in years! Normal-
ly we'd only see a handful by now. Can't recommend
them enough — top lads, proper job done

Thanks again boys — Jerry Hammond

“

A massive thank you to Digger Boats you did
an amazing job on our lake 🙌

Anyone reading this, these guys are 10/10
very professional and didn't stop for 2 days
solid.

Estimated amount of debris recovered
60tons, they did a fantastic job and I would
highly recommend 🙌



Stuart Stockton
Chesterton Community Angling Club



Neil Ellis recommends Digger Boats.

39m · 🌐

diggerboats.com has just completed some norfolk reed
removal on one of our club lakes. The diggerboats team
worked their socks off and done a great job giving great
value for money, going well beyond what was the basic
requirement, feedback from members has been really
positive with how the lake is now looking.
If you are a club or commercial fishery looking for a
professional fishery management/ maintenance company then
give diggerboats a call, we at Colchester Piscatorial Society
are already looking at more fallen tree removal work for the
diggerboat team to undertake !



Mark Turrell

Great job done, can't believe the difference, thank you guys at Digger boat 🙌🍷



Top fan

Stuart Stockton

Fantastic company highly recommend these guys they did a fantastic job on our lake
Highly knowledgeable and didn't stop for 2 days
A very professional service 🙌

The company can carry out any aquatic projects on Rivers, Canals, Lakes,
Ponds and Marinas. Weed removal, dredging, water deepening, reed and
rush removal, aquatic tree works and much more.

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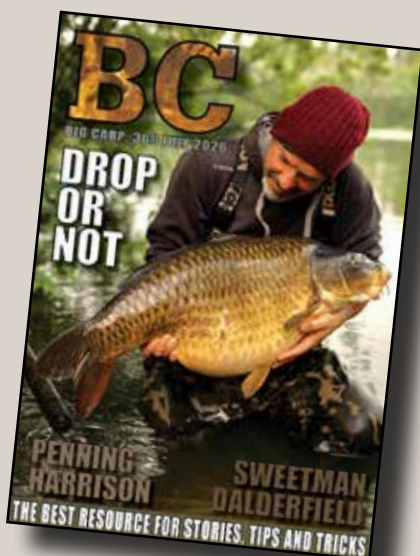
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BIG CARP 360:
July 2026

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Publications 2026



Front Cover:
Adam Penning with a
lovely UK common.



When I look through the catch reports and articles it's amazing to see how many beautiful big carp there are around the country. Back in the early 80s we often had to travel hundred's of miles in search of a 40lb+ carp - and that was even if you could get a ticket for the water!! Now, just about every pond around the country has a 40 in it. Even that illusive 50lb barrier isn't an unrealistic target these days. The sport has never been in such a great place. It was great to see the Waterside Common take the British record. That fish has been in line for some time now and anyone can fish for it on a day ticket!!

So how is our season going? If you're on a roll or bagged your target why not share your story in Big Carp.

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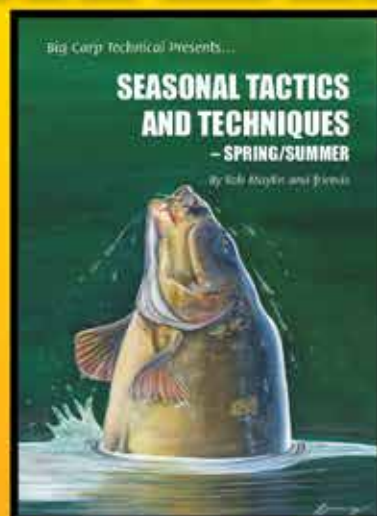
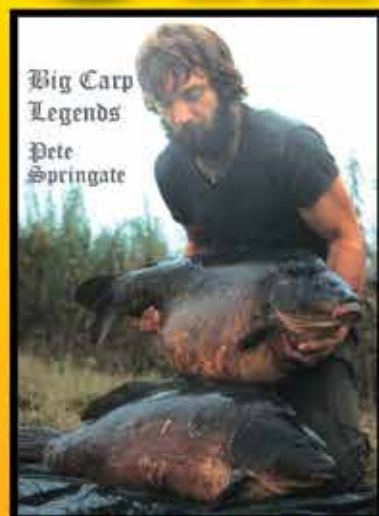
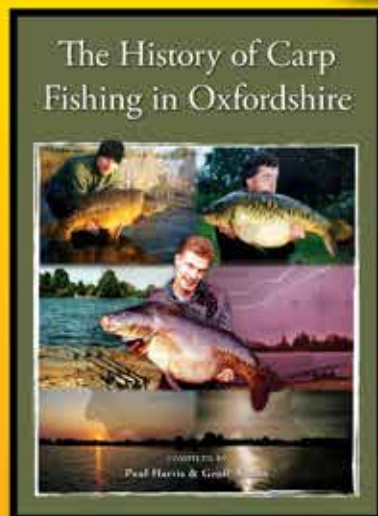
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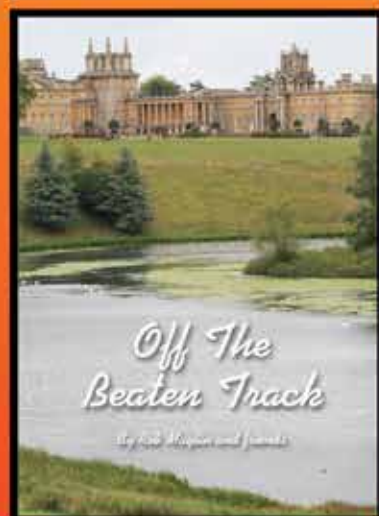
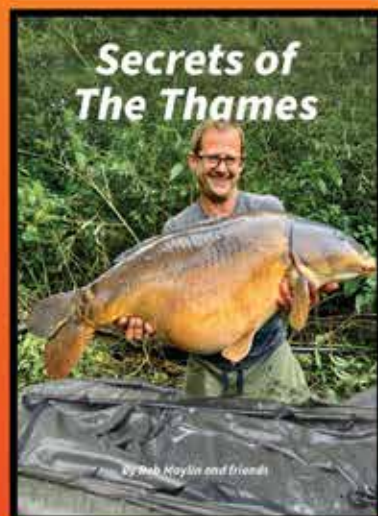
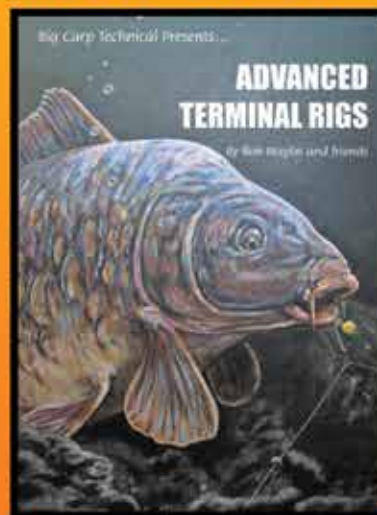
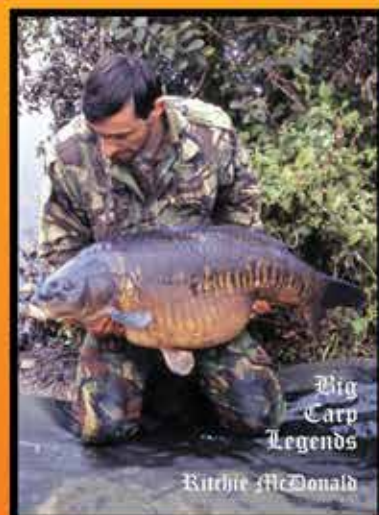
Rob Maylin

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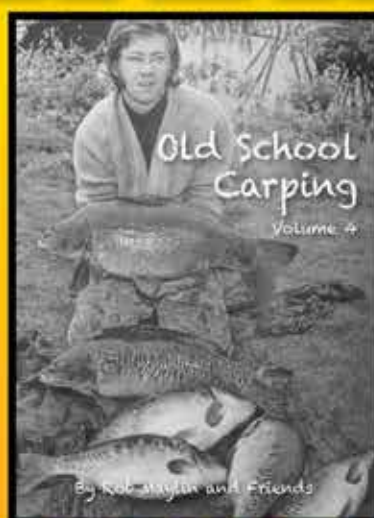
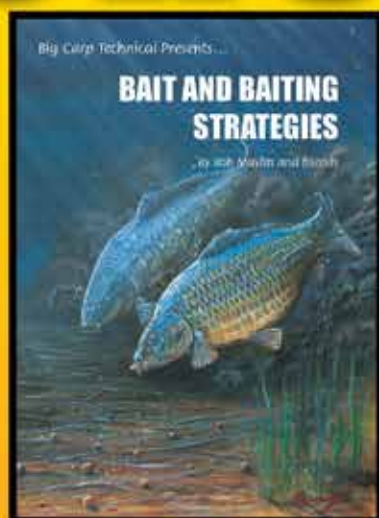


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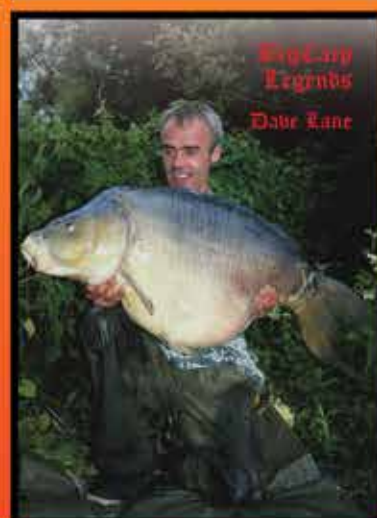
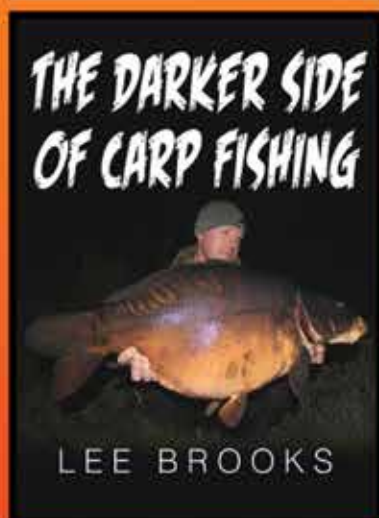
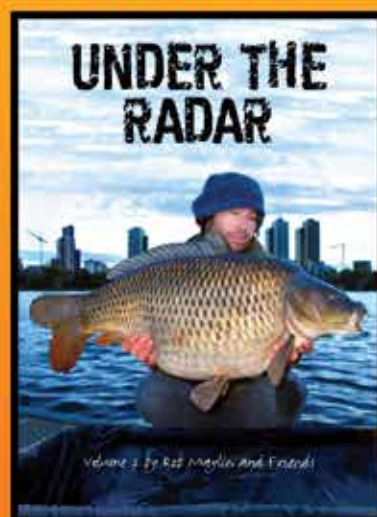
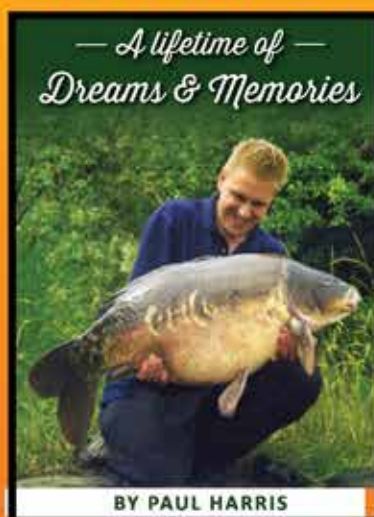
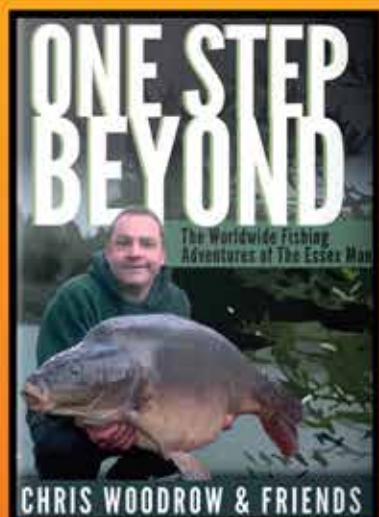


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NEW UK RECORD CARP FOR MIKE NIXON

What an absolute masterpiece from Mike Nixon, who landed this incredible looking common carp weighing 68lb 8oz on 1st May at Waterside Fishery. The record has now been officially confirmed by the Angling Trust. <https://anglingtrust.net/2026/06/11/british-carp-record/> Mike caught this magnificent fish using the Harrison Acurix 2.75lb, a rod he has trusted ever since its release many years ago Everyone at Harrison Rods is immensely proud of this achievement , well done !!!



COUNTRYSIDE QUALIFICATION COMING TO SCHOOLS

This coming September marks a major milestone for the Angling and the Countryside qualification, as schools in England and Wales begin piloting this exciting new programme. Read more... <https://anglingtradesassociation.com/>



TOM MAKER JOINS TEAM DAIWA



We're delighted to welcome Tom Maker Carp Angler to the Daiwa Team.

A highly respected angler with an incredible track record on some of the country's most challenging venues, Tom will be fishing exclusively with Daiwa reels for all of his carp angling moving forward.

Tom said "Joining the Daiwa brand is a huge honour for me and I am very excited to be on board using their reels exclusively.

Over my years angling I have been fortunate enough to use some of Daiwa's big pit reels from the more budget friendly ones right up to the flagship Basias, all of which have been absolutely faultless and a joy to use.

I don't think anyone can dispute that Daiwa reels are some of the finest carp fishing reels available on the market and having recently been invited up to HQ and being given the opportunity to see what's in the pipeline the future is very exciting indeed! I would like to take this opportunity to thank Daiwa for the support and I'm super excited to be working closely and forming a long lasting relationship with one of the best reel manufacturers in the world of angling."

£10M E.A. INVESTMENT FROM ANGLERS LICENCES



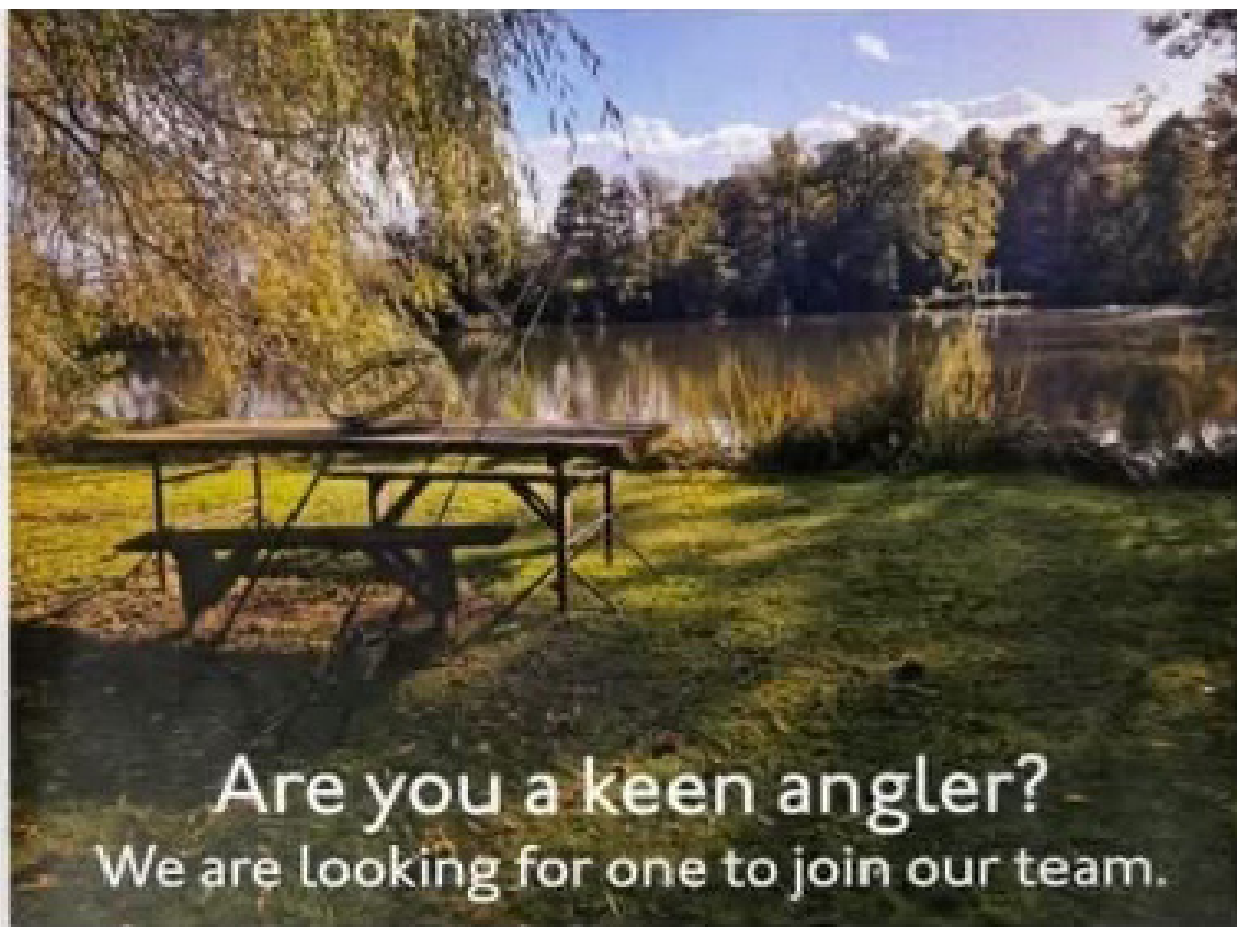
We're celebrating £10million communities around them. of investment from fishing From stabilising eroding licence income! Since 2015, riverbanks and restoring the Fisheries Improvement overgrown ponds to installing Programme has helped deliver accessible fishing platforms thousands of improvements and planting thousands of that benefit anglers and the trees.



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Anglers to raise a minimum of £150 sponsorship, to be collected by the day of the Event. A full support pack will be sent once ticket purchased.

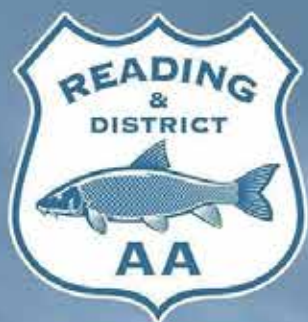


Tickets available on our web site Sunday 1st March 2026 at 10am

The AAC Mega Raffle will be drawn on Sunday 13th September after the event has finished.

Tickets on sale on our Anglers Against Cancer Auction Site.

For more information visit: www.anglersagainstcancer.co.uk



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Tickets for this year's 's spectacular Junction 12 prize draw are now on sale. venue. Tickets are still just £24 lucky winners will join - find out more and get yours Terry Hearn, Oz Holness, at <https://anglingtrust.net/ultimate-carp-social-2026/> Tom Stokes Angler and Nick Helleur for a weekend Korda Developments Sticky session at Reading & District Baits Thinking Anglers ESP Angling Association - RDAA Carp gear

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Farnham AS Membership pandemic. If you wish to become a member and enjoy the fishing and facilities we offer our members, which many believe is unbeatable value and which includes some superb and varied fisheries, please just use the link below. <https://farnhamanglingsociety.clubmate.co.uk/register> Just follow the simple instructions and provide a digital 'passport style' photograph. Payment is accepted from all major Credit & Debit Cards, Direct Debit, Apple Pay and Google Pay. Last season's members who have not yet renewed and intend to do so should act before 1st June 2026 to avoid having to pay the Joining Fee again, as your membership will be deemed to have lapsed as of 31st May 2026. Enjoy your fishing, whether it be with Farnham AS or elsewhere.

Despite some rumours apparently circulating about Farnham AS having put in place a membership cap, we can confirm that is not the case. We can also confirm that despite some peoples misguided previous claims that our membership exceeds 4,500, 5,000 and even 7,000 this season ! , our membership remains open and is below 3,500 at present. Indeed, it will most likely be below 3,700 at the end of the season, which is where it has remained for the last 3-seasons. Indeed, our membership has only exceeded 4,000 members on 3 occasions, for the 2013/14 season after we had just purchased our Yateley East & South Complexes (which have been invested in heavily over the last 14 years), and in both 2020/21 & 2021/21 due to the

Ian Gray, Honorary Secretary

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- www.atomictackle.co.uk
- RRP: £7.99

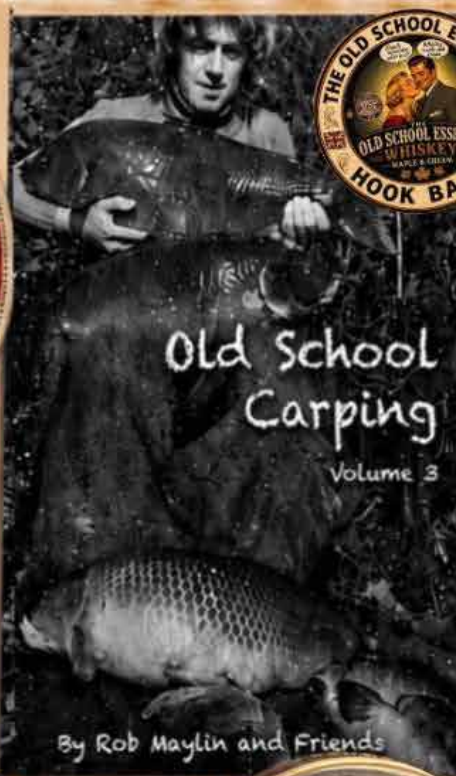
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 infections such as fin rot, RRP £9.99

Oak Lakes Fisheries

www.oaklakesfisheries.co.uk



Here's a selection of some of Oak Lakes' cracking carp



We did 48hrs on the Long Finger for my birthday. I landed 11 up to 23.06 and my wife had the big common at 32.05 a new pb.



Mike had 4 cats up to 47lb during his session



Couple of lovely carp from the a session Gully area. Nice result.



Oak Lakes Fisheries

www.oaklakesfisheries.co.uk



Here's a selection of some of Oak Lakes' cracking carp



44 lb 10 oz - Pipe lake member Jim very happy to join the 40's club - we are all very pleased for him



23 lb 2oz blank saver for Stuart



Had this lovely common at 20lb 8oz.



Real good fight with this one

Oak Lakes Fisheries

www.oaklakesfisheries.co.uk



Here's a selection of some of Oak Lakes' cracking carp



Best one of 2 so far 28.5



**Best of 3 carp caught
24lb 4oz**



22 on the nose



The smile says it all



**a nice 28lb 10oz ghost
mirror for Alan. He's
bang on form lately**



**0130 early call for
this common healthy
spawned out male.**



**Nice one Alan - that's
a cracking looking
common**



**I caught 19lb 4oz carp.
Well happy.**

Oak Lakes Fisheries

www.oaklakesfisheries.co.uk



Here's a selection of some of Oak Lakes' cracking carp



Over the past few weeks Mark has been fishing various swims on both sides of the day ticket lake. Here's a selection of his catches which we are grateful he has shared as show the quality of carp stock we have.

DREAM COMES TRUE



Andy Askew reports, "I was able to catch the fish of my dreams for the last two years. A fish that's completely unique and from a unique lake too! Often called a marmite lake, I could certainly call it something else, I loved to hate it but in all honesty already miss it. As a weekend angler is no joke there. Massive respect to the guys who fish it, I met some fantastic friends in my time there. For me it was something that made the lake a lot more tolerable. When they get their day/capture it'll also make my day for sure. Also thanks to the guys who were there for my capture. Everyone helped a lot and everyone was buzzing to see the fish, I really appreciated that."

'TEN SHUN!!



Army Dave with an absolute belter... landing the famous "Tilly" from Bluebell Lakes – 53lb 6oz!

LIAM'S LUNKER



Snaggy Pit success for :
Liam Gingell

CATCH REPORTS

Alex Roden with circle scale From the notorious swan lake down at the bluebell lakes complex

CIRCLE OF LIFE



I.O.W. WHACKER



Mark Sissons showing us how it's done with his reward of 53.4lb from the Lower lake



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KENT KRACKER



Jon Smith is "Still buzzing from catching this big girl at 55lb & Ounces from my Kent Syndicate"

B1 BOMBER



Kamil Konopka a few weeks back on B1 landed one of the big girls at 49lb 11oz,

BLAZE OF GLORY



Blaise Price with Peaches at 44lb 4oz. Over the course of 13 nights he managed to land 43 carp -7 forties, 26 thirties and 10 twenties. A spring I'll never forget

CATCH REPORTS

THAMES VALLEY BEAUTY

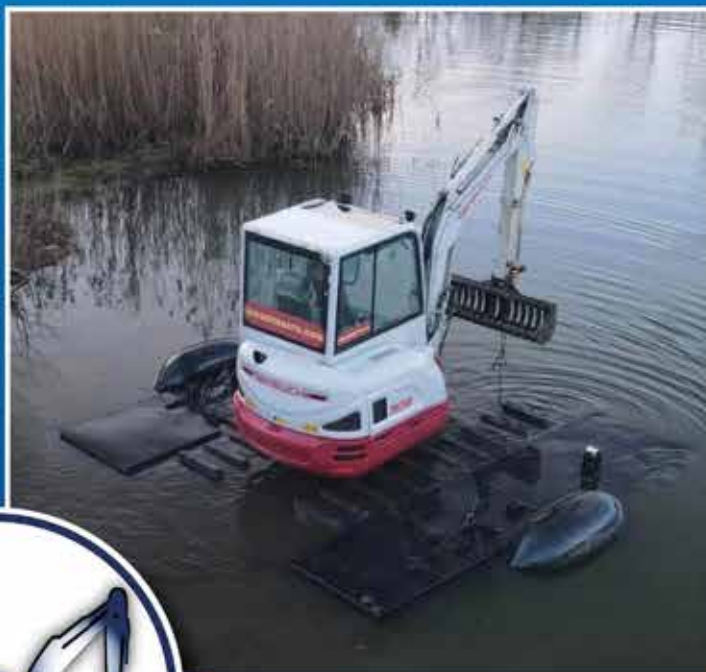


Gavin Campbell, with a truly breathtaking 53lb+ mirror from a large & very notable low stock Thames Valley pit

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CALLUM'S BEST



Callum Westhead with the much sort after Hardwick Lin at 44lb! What a carp.

SO CLOSE



A big Kingsmead mirror, this time it's The Birthday Fish, another one that's knockin' on the door of 50lb

PHIL'S FAB 50 FROM OAK LAKE



Phil Hopkins with a great session on Oak lake including the Linear at 51lb 2oz

PRETTY DECENT

Anthony Jones
with The Pretty
Sutton at 52.04lb



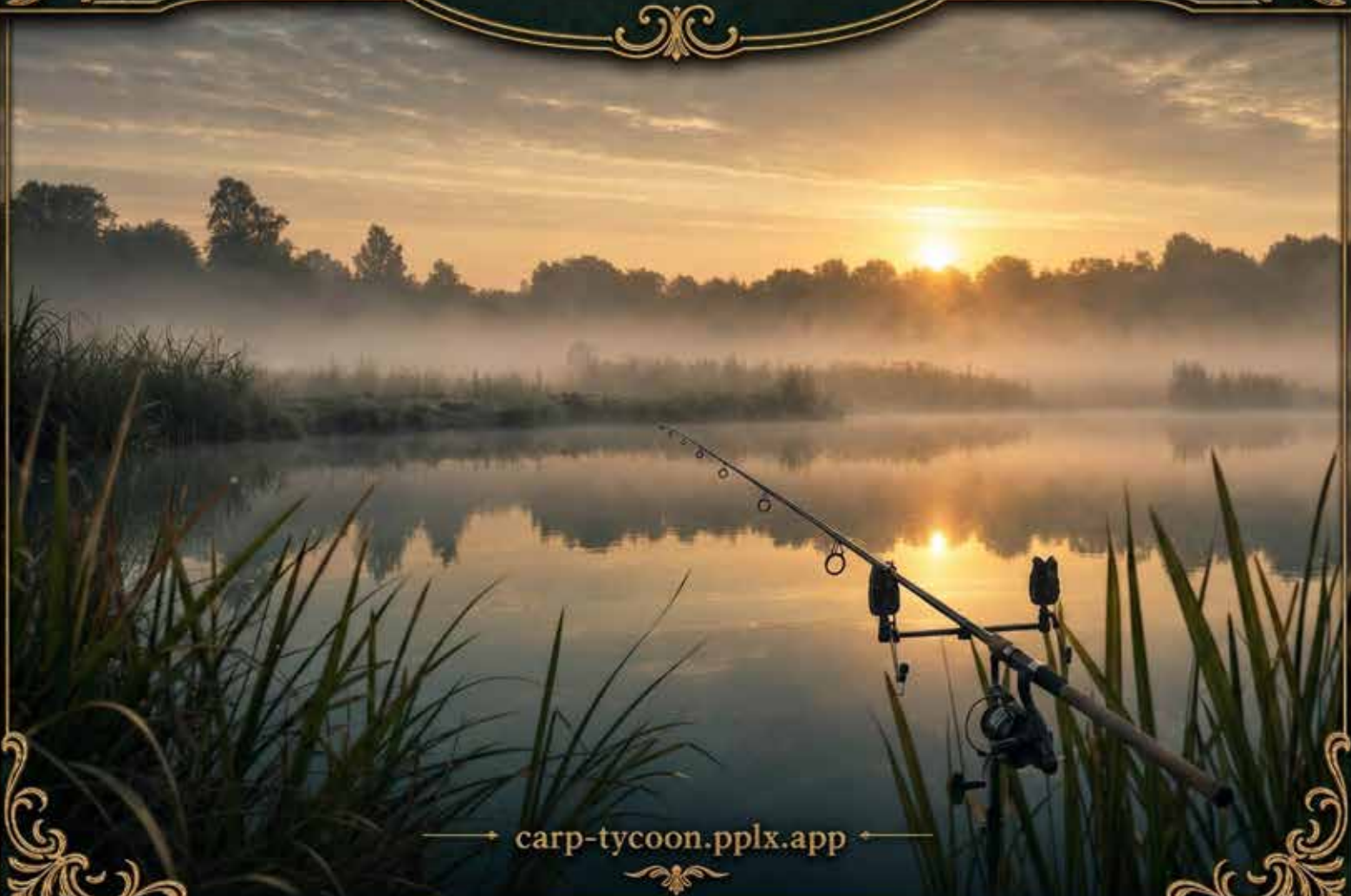
BRADLEY'S BANGER

Will Bradley
"Carp like this are
special creatures
indeed"



CARP TYCOON

— Carp Fishery Tycoon —



— carp-tycoon.pplx.app —

Carp Tycoon is a free-to-play browser-based carp fishing tycoon game built by Matthew Emerson — a UK carp angler turned solo developer.

Start with Hollow Pit, a neglected 3-acre gravel pit, and grow your fishery across five tiers all the way to syndicate-level estate waters. Real angling mechanics — water chemistry, biomass capacity, swim placement, baiting strategy, weather, seasons. No gimmicks, no fluff.

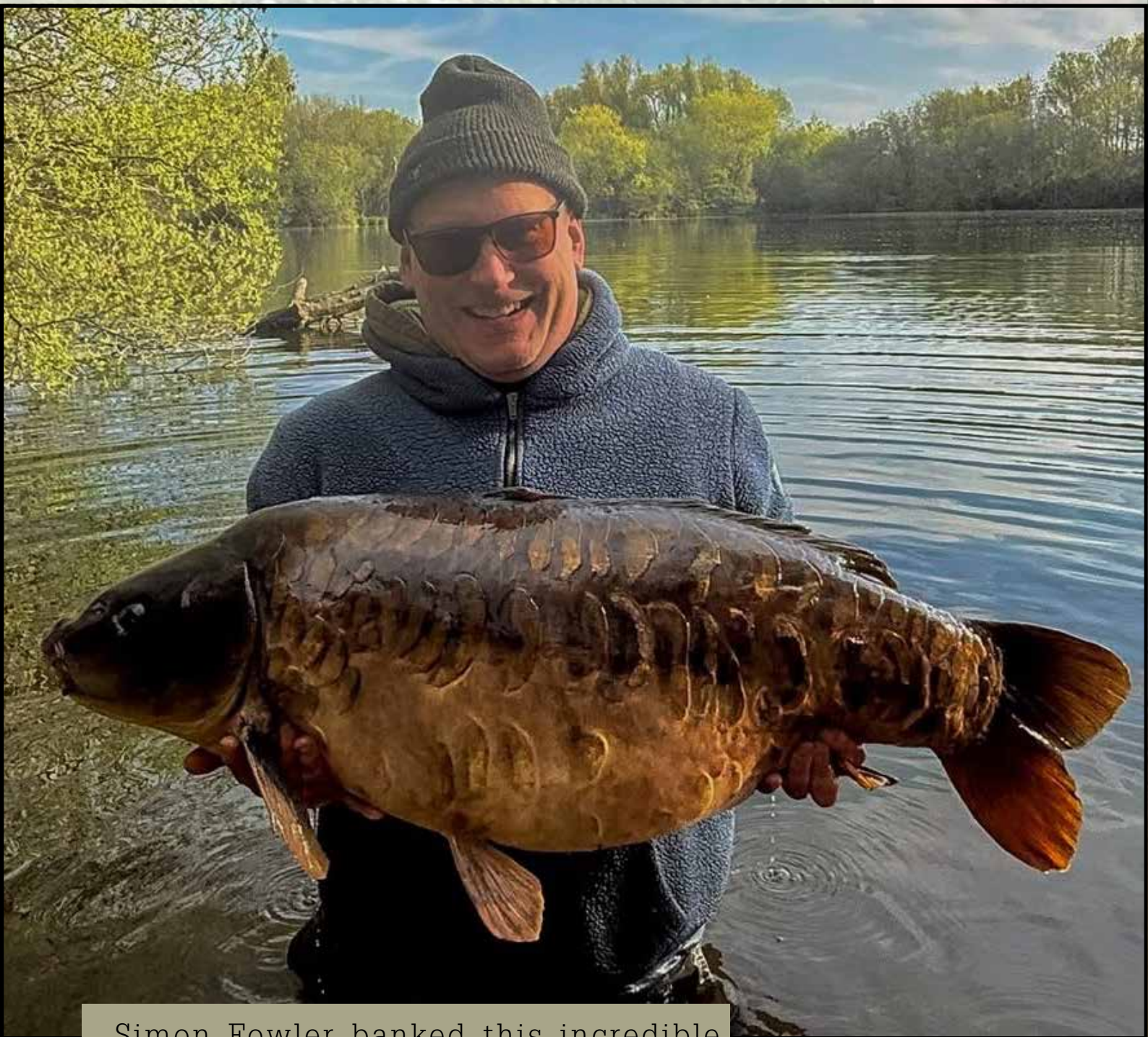
The base game is free. Optional £3.99 lake packs unlock 60+ real and inspired UK and European waters. Optional Owner-Support tiers help fund the next pack.

No signup. No install. Plays on desktop, iPad, and iPhone — add to your home screen for a full-app experience. Built by an angler, for anglers.

FOR MORE DETAILS SEE US ON FACEBOOK OR VISIT

WWW.CARP-TYCOON.PPLX.APP

ELSON'S BIGGY FOR SIMON



Simon Fowler banked this incredible scaley mirror tipping the scales at 41lbs

DYNAMO AT 42



A proper chunk for Greg Kersch

WITHIN REACH

Darrell Peck
Longreach's
Starburst at 52.1



CATCH REPORTS

A-TEAM

Matt Hopkins
bagged the Big Girl!!!
Mrs T weighing in at
42lb 8oz

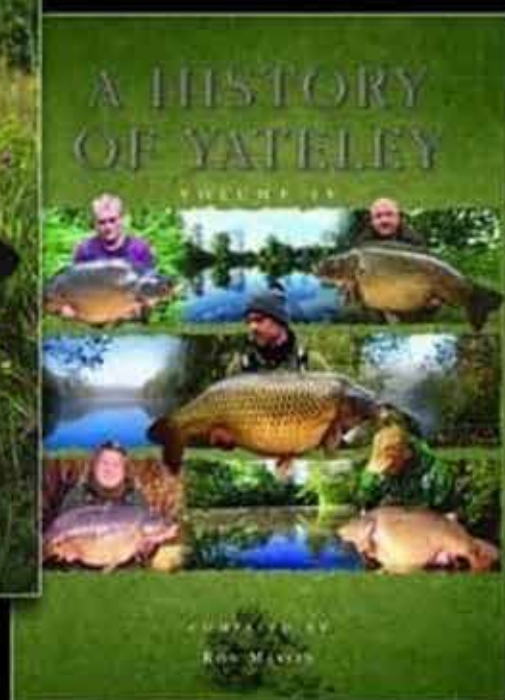
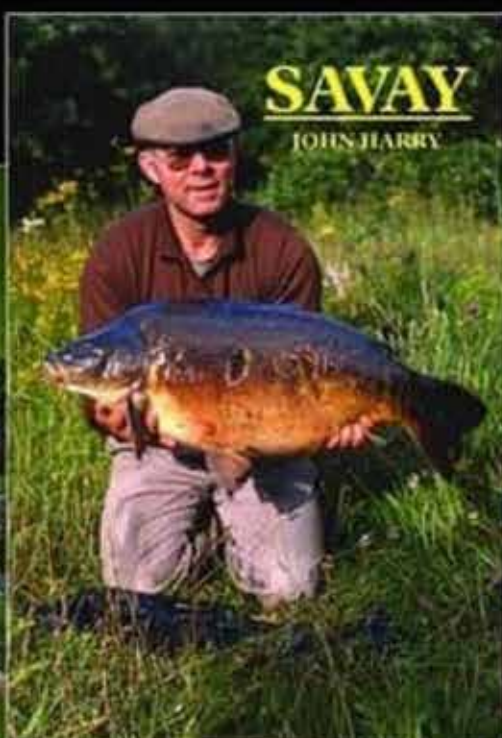
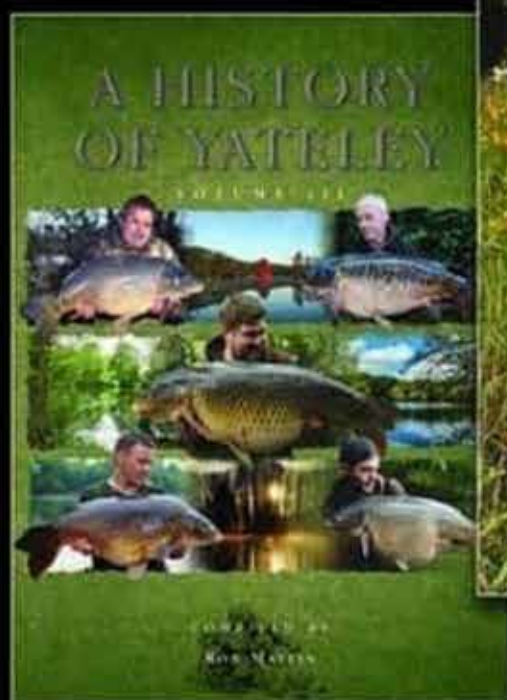
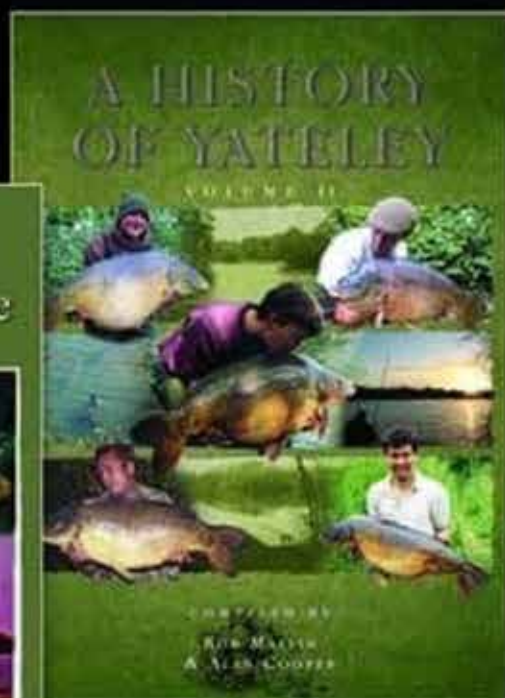
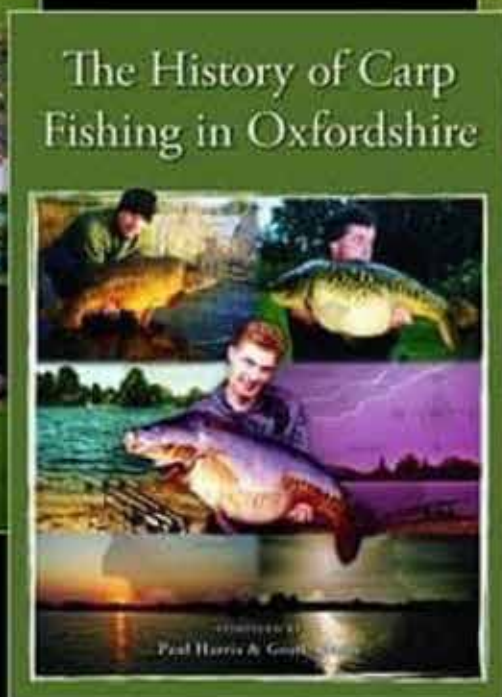
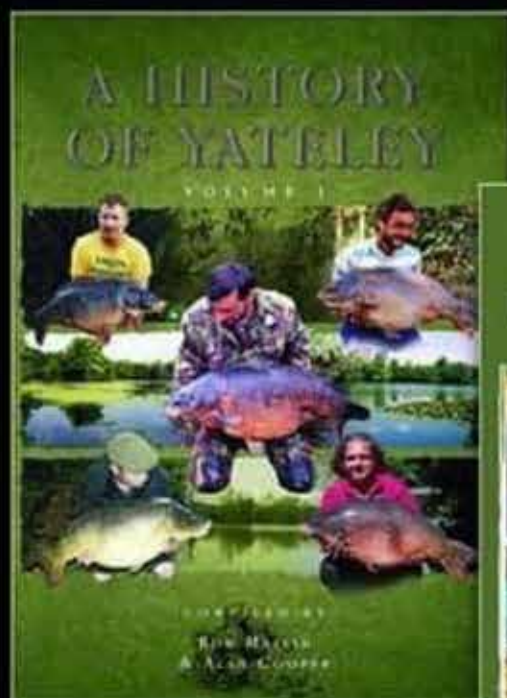


B1 PB

Fishing on B1,
Dave Radford has
landed one of the
big girls at his new
PB at 50lb 4oz!!



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BLOWING BUBBLES

Robert Gurney 5 years on my
wanted list... 'bubbles' @44.8



SOCIETY SCORCHER

Mike Stevens with
a chunk this week at
43lb from farriers

HI-JACK

Billy Brickell managed to bag his target fish 'Hi-Jack' - all 43lb of it.



SPRING STAR



A mega spot of Spring angling for Ryan Waring. The highly sought after Longreach Starburst

MANOR'S FULLY

Carl Freshwater
with the big
fully from Linear
Manor farm
@47lb+.

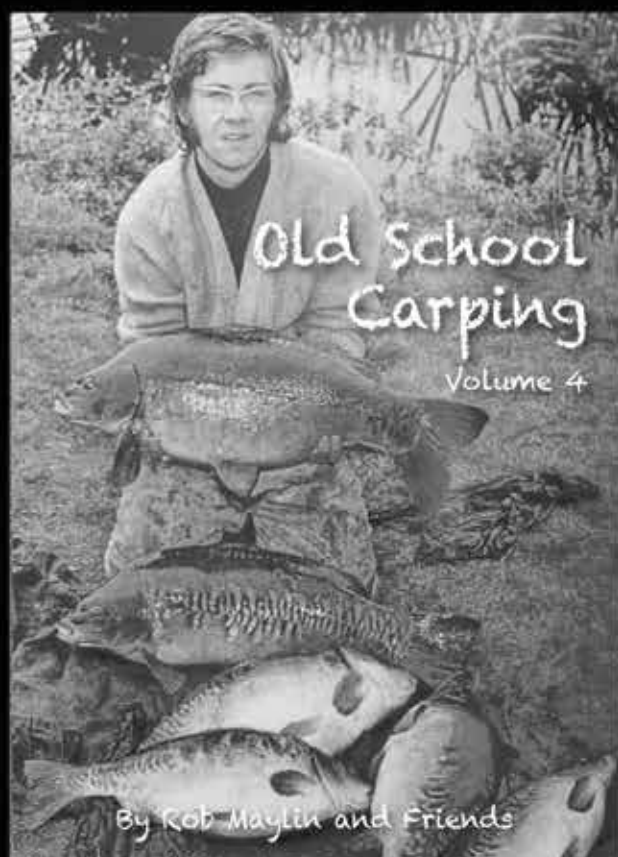
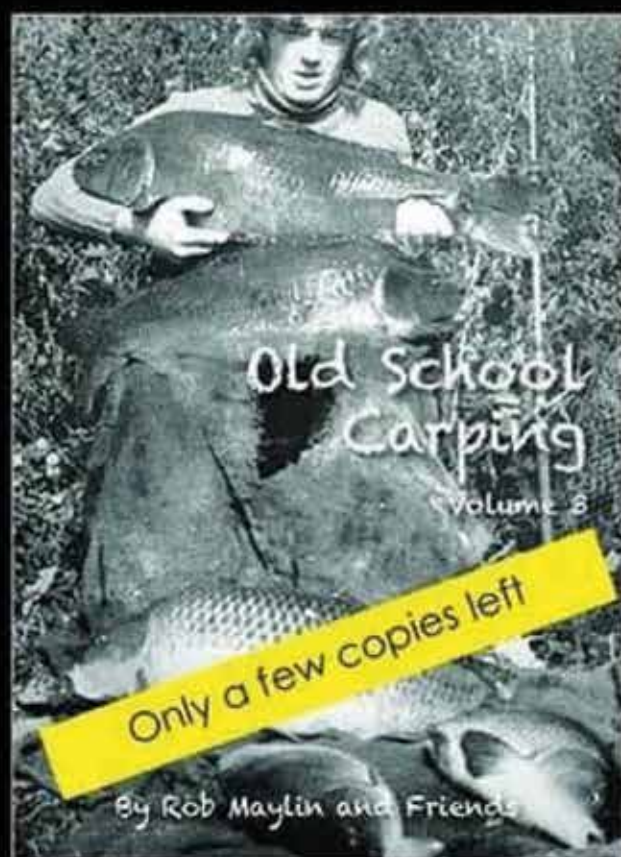
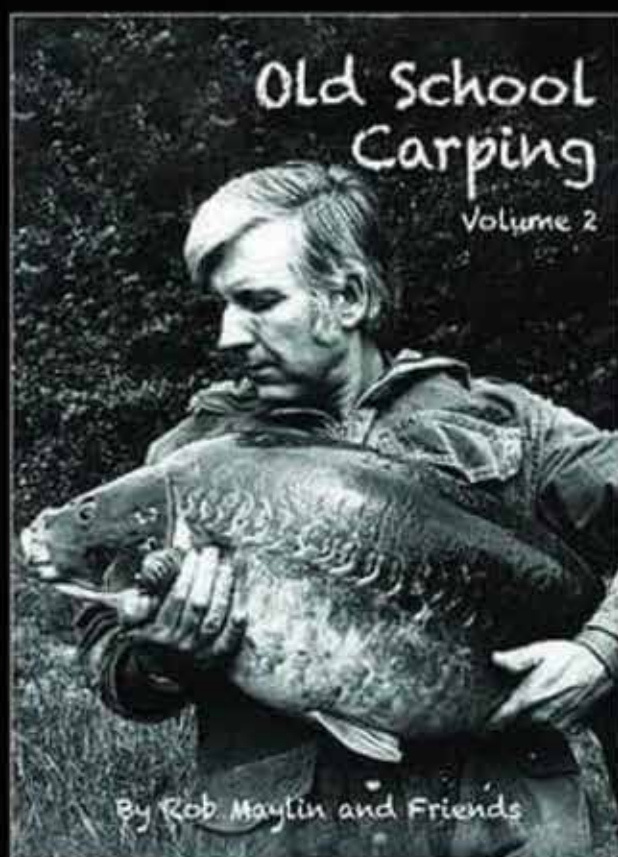
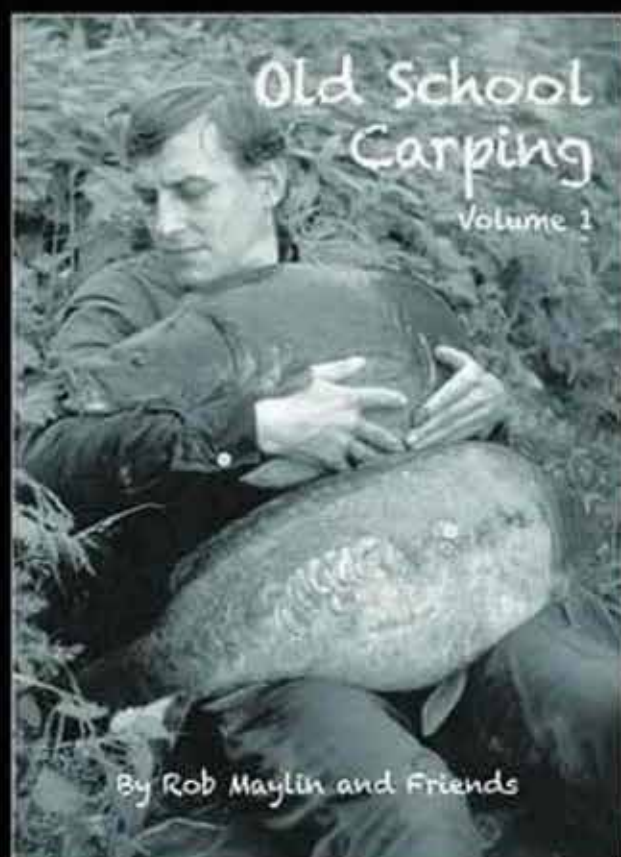


KING OF THE POND



Jon Williams with Black spot at 57.10

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NICE START

Dan Coffey banked this rather cool and uniquely coloured linear tipping the scales at 45lbs+



NICE ONE AL

Al Patterson with a 53lb Mirror



GO HARRY!!



Here are a few cracking carp Harry Nixon has had from his local canal over recent trips — proper quality specimens and exactly what canal fishing is all about!





ADAM PENNING

BLUEBELL DAYS

I started looking at the famous Bluebell complex in 2022. I'd long been aware of the calibre of fish it had produced - certainly some of the best looking fish you could find anywhere, they always looked immaculate which was one of the key elements that drew me in. The list of prerequisites that I need to fish a water might surprise some; at the very top of that is condition, specifically mouths. If the fish don't tick this box then I simply won't fish there. A very close second is the general look of the fish; again if the fish doesn't excite me by how it looks then I am not interested in catching it, no matter how big it is.

The Bluebell fish had it all - they were immaculate all over, they looked incredible and they were big too. Being accessible on a day ticket made it quite a rarity - fish of that prestige normally being the mainstay of exclusive syndicates. The complex has been one of the most popular day ticket complexes in the UK for the last 30 years. The original owner, Tony Bridgefoot who is sadly no longer with us, created a stunning complex of 5 lakes,

all with super clear water and healthy weed growth, flanked in rolling countryside by the intertwining River Nene. The lakes have held fish from 10 to well over 60lbs, contain snags, thick weed and have seen all styles of angling practiced by all levels of angler. How have the carp maintained such revered condition and what I refer to as 'stock pond mouths'? The answer is simple - since opening, Tony has placed (and enforced) a barbless only policy on all the lakes. That one simple ruling eliminated all tethering and towing. Any naysayers who argue that the opposite is true and that barbless hooks damage fish will have their argument totally destroyed by the Bluebell model. It is a perfect time capsule of 30 plus years of super pressured barbless hook angling and the fish are without exception, immaculate. Some places have barbless rulings in name only

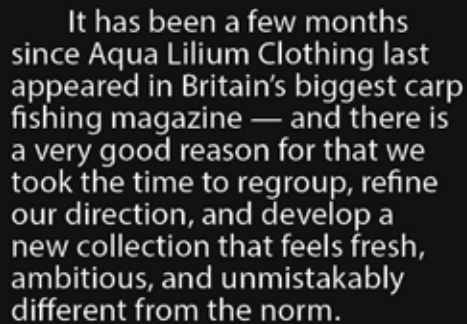
and people point to those and ask how are the fish damaged - simple, many are barbless in name only, whereas at Bluebell the management will check rigs proactively and ban anyone flouting the rules. We all want to catch amazing looking, flawless fish don't we? At this complex you can!

One of the things I love about the place is that after the morning rush, you don't often see people walking about. The mown grassy banks tend to be quiet and the place feels more like a syndicate than a day ticket. The surroundings are peaceful, secluded and immaculately kept by the management team overseen by Jimmy - now the owner - and head bailiff Trev. Together they work with Phil and the rest of the team in a never ending task of keeping such a huge estate looking like a giant garden. January or June, hail or sun, they will be out there working. A truly great



Swan sunset

NEW 2026 COLLECTION



This process has taken time, but for us it was important to get it right. If you have been following our social media platforms, you will have seen a wide range of concepts, artwork, and designs being shared. We wanted to bring those ideas directly to you, our customers and supporters, so we could understand which designs connected most strongly. After all, Aqua Lilium would be nothing without the people who support the brand, and we genuinely appreciate every comment, message, and piece of feedback you have given us.

That feedback has helped shape a collection where the back designs are more detailed and more complex than ever before. We are pushing ourselves to produce artwork that stands apart within the carp fishing industry, and Mark Quinn's latest work carries an incredible level of depth and detail. At one stage, we were not even sure whether it would be possible to print — but at Aqua Lilium Clothing, we have never been afraid of a challenge.

With a new approach, a change in technique, and plenty of determination, we are proud to say that the next chapter is nearly here. Watch this space — these new designs are on another level.

Under the Stars is the perfect place to begin. Believe it or not, this design started life as a

real photograph before being carefully digitised to create a fresh, distinctive finish. It is also available as a framed print, making it a striking piece of artwork that would look exceptional on any wall.

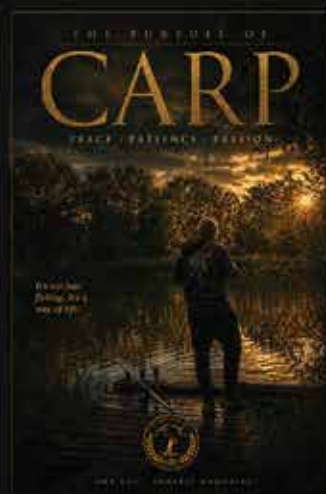
The Boy in the Moon follows with a clean, imaginative design inspired by the magic of classic cinema-style artwork, reworked with Mark's own fishing twist. It captures a young boy's imagination and his dream of being out by the water, rod in hand, lost in the moment.

Carp Rig Blueprint brings a completely different feel to the range, featuring a gold rig design set against a high-quality olive green T-shirt. Over the next 12 months, a selection of different rigs will be released for you to collect, turning this design into the start of a very special series.

We are also proud to announce that Aqua Liliu Clothing is now celebrating its fifth year. To mark the occasion, we have created a special fifth anniversary design called Dusk 'til Dawn, complete with a limited-edition embroidered logo on the front of the T-shirt.

The collection continues with the Dragonfly Comic Strip Edition, a bold and playful design that shows us having a little fun. Featuring a dragonfly riding a spomb, it brings character, humour, and originality to the range.

At Aqua Lilium, we always try to cater for everyone, which brings us to Clockwork — a beautifully detailed design with real depth. It is the kind of artwork you can look at again and again, discovering something new each time.



Beyond our own releases, we also continue to work on collaborations with tackle shops, including Essex County Angling. If you are interested in collaborating with one of the most distinctive clothing brands in the business, contact us at aqualiliumclothing@hotmail.com. Together, we can create a unique design that helps your business stand out from the crowd in an industry where many simply follow each other.

To cap things off, we are introducing the Bed chair Buddy — a product unique to the Aqua Lilium brand. Designed for both you and your dog, Buddy is a

bed chair cover built for anglers who are lucky enough to take their four-legged companion fishing with them. It features a kangaroo-style pocket that can be accessed from any side, and the pocket can also be unpopped and washed for added practicality.

These are exciting times for Aqua Lilium Clothing. The collection is growing, the ideas are getting bolder, and even the big brands are beginning to watch what we are doing. We must be doing something right — and the truth is, we are only just getting started.



Website: www.aqualiliumclothing.com

Email: aqualiliumclothing@hotmail.com

Tel: 07854629130

You can also reach us through or Facebook or instagram pages



Aqua Liliu Clothing

CATCH REPORT



Aqua Liliu Clothing boss Mark hasn't had much time out on the bank this year, with work and the ever-expanding fishing brand keeping him busier than ever. However, he recently managed to squeeze in a 24-hour session with his daughter, Lily — and it turned into one to remember.

The action started within just 30 minutes of casting out and continued throughout the day, with the pair struggling to keep the rods in the water. Mark explained that, while attending the Doncaster Carp Show, he got talking to Richard from Nutrabaits and the decision to join the team was made very quickly.

"It was a no-brainer for us, to be honest," said Mark. "Like I've always said, the proof is in the pudding."



Mark and Lily used a mixture of 15mm Big Fish Mix and 15mm Energise, topped with a balanced wafter. The approach proved devastating, producing 17 takes and 14 landed fish. The biggest of the session was



a stunning 36lb 14oz mirror carp.

Not to be beaten, Lily also got in on the action, weighing in with a beautiful ghost carp of her own — rounding off a memorable session for the pair.

bunch of people - passionate and hard working.

With a campaign having ended in 2021 and the lack of any syndicate tickets, I was forced to look at the day ticket circuit for my angling and Bluebell seemed the perfect choice. I'd started the Carp Academy project in 2022 and with the main premise being how to target pressured day tickets I decided to visit the complex with cameras in

tow. All our films are made with honesty, integrity and full transparency in mind. We do not indulge in the roped off swims, prebaiting rubbish, instead approaching in exactly the same manner as our viewers would have to: get on the gate in the queue and then walk the complex with a bucket to find a swim. Clearly this style of fishing is not to everyone's taste but whilst I'd rather be alone on a 50 acre



Baby Bulldozer

**Exceptional Swan mirror**

nature reserve, I do get a raw kick out of competing against the masses.

On our first trip, I walked and looked, walked and looked and then did more of the same across all five lakes. Eventually I settled on a weedy corner of Sandmartin lake where a fish had just rolled. I sat and studied the water, seeing a bit of fizzing and then another fish a little

later. We moved into the area and fished for 48 hours during which I was treated to several spectacular fish which were capped by the biggest in the lake, the magnificent common called Tilly. To have pulled off such a result for what was our very first Carp Academy film was a tremendous rush and the feeling I got for having gambled and won was immense. It proved that with

good watercraft and solid, somehow I have been visited patient angling it was possible by the giant common, Tilly, to just turn up with everyone on no less than 3 occasions, else and catch the biggest in a statistic that, if you knew the lake, the pressure and the stock is utterly brain frazzling.

Perhaps inevitably, that session lit the fire of a passionate affair with the complex, one that has seen me return many times over the last few years. I have only fished Sandmartin lake a few times as I always get drawn to the neighbouring Swan, but One of those captures came while I was on my own and saw me juggling the huge fifty plus beast for solo self takes - that was quite a moment!

Swan lake next door is the one that really captures my imagination and is where I

Kingfisher Gold





Kingfisher Armour Bully

have spent the majority of my Bluebell time. It's one of those lakes that responds well to a variety of tactics and I've caught them on singles, floaters, method balls, naturals, washed out baits, in the edge and out in the lake. The fish are hugely pressured of course and do take some catching but Bluebell is a place where dreams can be made for anyone.

Bait boats are permitted and are the main approach but I have found that (as always) giving the carp something they are not used to seeing will often bring impressive results. One of my favoured tactics is to fish straight bottom baits, and bait lightly with a boilie rocket or catapult. I also like small hooks and soft links; a size 8 and braid have served me well on Swan, Kingfisher and Sandmartin producing forty pound fish from all. One lake I haven't fished much is Mallard - the biggest lake on

the site and the most heavily stocked. Mallard is unique in respect that if you get it right, multiple takes can be possible making it almost seem like a runs water (which it isn't!) but at the same time you have a chance at some seriously big carp too with 3 different fish having topped 49lbs. It also has great winter form and is probably the most popular of the 5 lakes.

Another thing to bear in mind is that due to the proliferation of bait boats (and the general nature of modern carp fishing), everyone wants to get out as far into the lake as possible. As you might expect, the carp can be found quite close to the bank and the majority of the fish I've caught from the complex, including the whackers, were lured within 30 yards or less of the margins. The complex provides fantastic facilities which include a very impressive tackle shop, showers and



Old Gold from Swan



Swan Clonker

BIG CARP

fine arts
presents

WATERCOLOUR CARP PAINTINGS



Mary and Mary's Mate, the icons of the great Wraysbury complex... The British Record in the arms of Terry Hearn and the brace which Sir Pete posed so wonderfully with on the back of his legends book are but two of the many captures which have earned these two awesome creatures their place in the Big Carp magazine legends hall of fame.

The A3 prints are very modestly priced at only £25 and are available now on the Big Carp website www.bigcarpmagazine.co.uk. Visit the site, go to the shop and select the 'Fine Art' section. There is also more information on the rest of the series, which will be available at one to two-month intervals, but I can tell you that the Black Mirror, the Burghfield Common, Heather, Jumbo, Jack, Mary, Clarissa, the Bishop, the Royal Forty, the Fat Lady, Mary's Mate etc are already on the list and we are up for any more favourites – just let us know – Rob Maylin

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Swan unit



The mighty Cluster



Tilly at 50+



Tilly on our first trip



catering van. The management are friendly, helpful and accommodating but it must be said don't suffer fools - if you are going for a noisy beer session and disturb other anglers you might be asked to leave, similar results can be expected if you flout the few but sensible rules.

I think with any busy day ticket complex there is the commonly held view that getting a good swim is all but impossible. Of course this is far from the truth

and I can tell you that in five years of visiting Bluebell I have never once had preferential treatment of any kind and I still manage to get amongst the pearls that the lakes contain. Using watercraft, effort and good angling, anybody can walk away with the calibre of carp that is pretty well unmatched anywhere on the day ticket circuit.

I will be going back for sure and if I see you up there, mine's a coffee!

Swan on a new wind





Swan mirror off the top

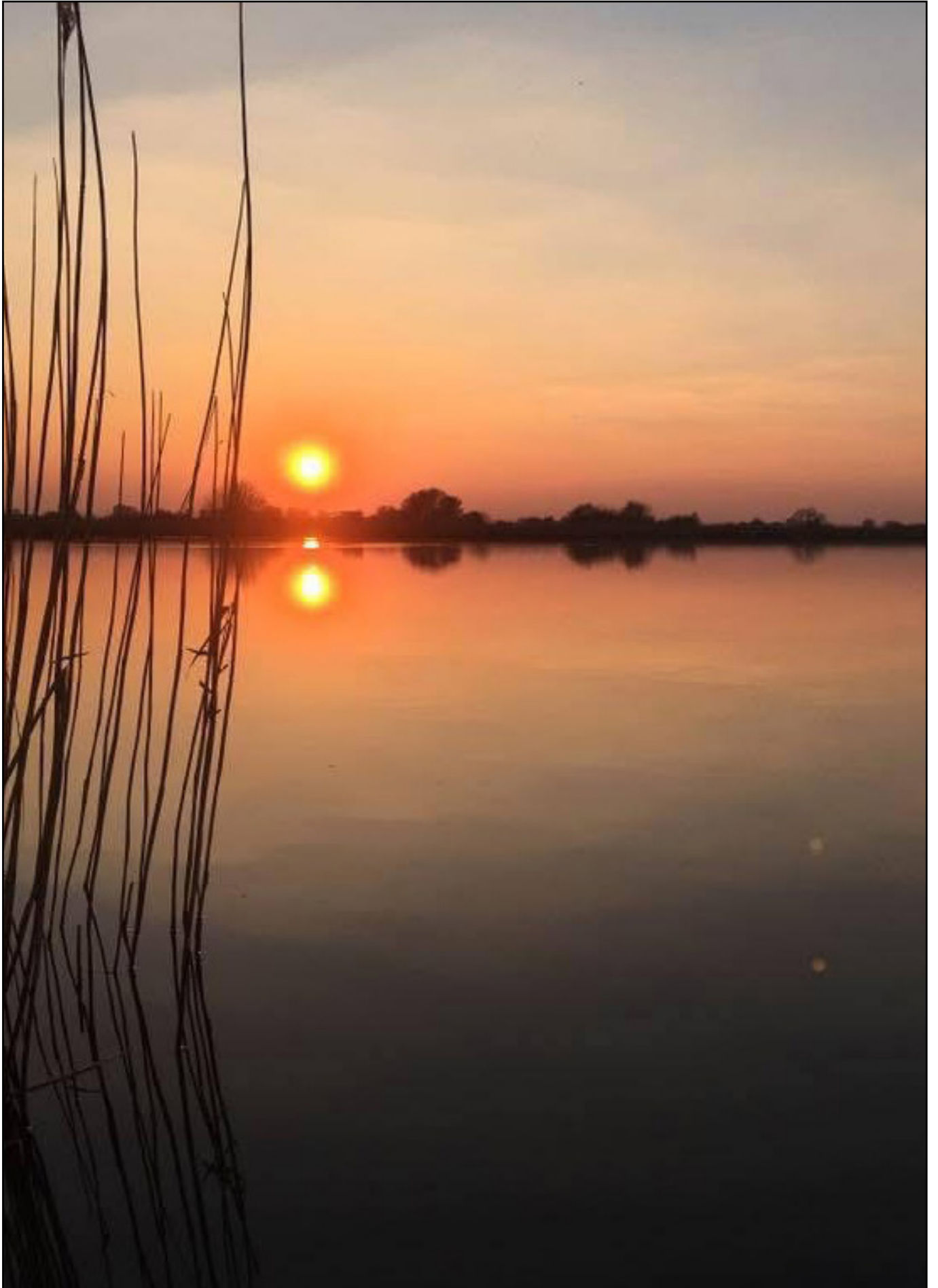


BARRY DELDERFIELD

LITTLE EDGES

'This incredible old linear was part of a real purple patch during the spring of 2022, banking 4 of the lakes 'A Team' in as many weekends. Being a weekend only angler, when lakes are busy in the spring it's imperative to find those little edges to set yourself apart from everybody else. This particular spring it was about keeping the rods close in and allowing the carp to feel comfortable further out in the swim and be patient to allow them to drift in to where the traps were set. No whole round boilies





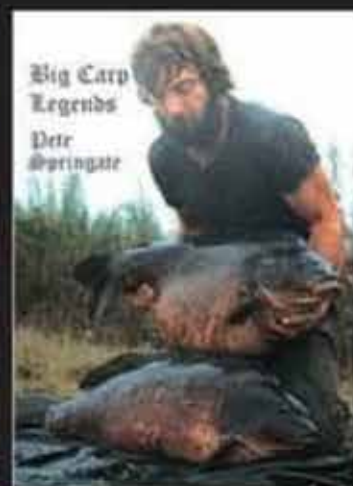
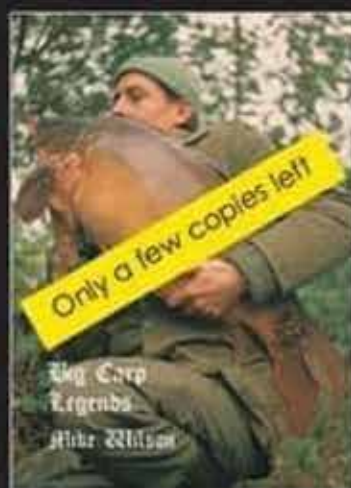
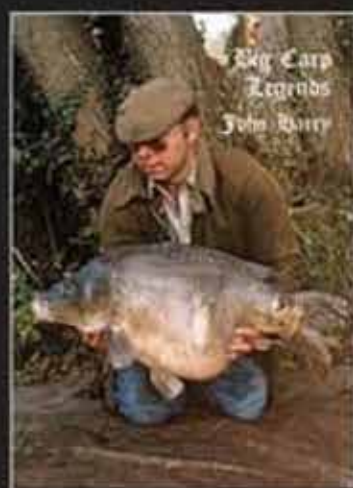
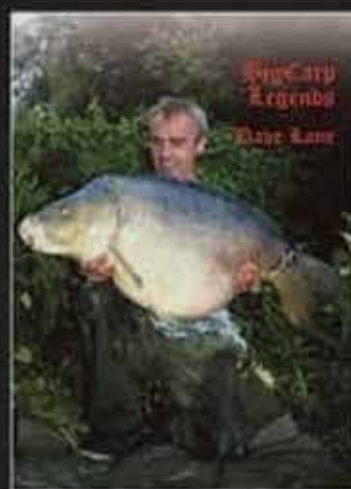


was also key, baiting with 5 mini spombs of Freshwater Shrimp crumb and chops, using a slow sinking Korda Dumbell infused with shrimp glaze as a hookbait blended in perfectly - No place for a bright pink one in this situation!

Super slack 15lb Kontour straight through to a tiny 1.5 oz inline flat pear lead. An 18" combi multi, using 25lb MouthTrap for the boom and 20lb N-Trap to create the loop/hook section. I like to overweight the rig at the hook end to make it really aggressive pulling the hook down to the bottom lip very quickly! All of these small edges really helped to trip up a very old, very pressured stock of carp in a very shallow clear lake, with this one being the jewel in the crown'.

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ELLIOTT GRAY

MY GO TO RIG

I've built up a lot of confidence in this rig, having used it now for many years on a variety of waters, from tricky intimate UK waters, to huge public lakes across Europe.

Centred around a size 4 Kamakura Wide Gape X, I use a section of Medium Shrink Tube, fished line-aligner style

on a fairly short length of N Trap (semi stiff).

A number 4 shot positioned just before the shrink tube, not only ensures the hooklink is pinned to the lakebed but helps turn that hook home. I use this set up regardless if I'm fishing a bottom bait, wafter or pop up.

A small section of Dark lead I can get away with, Matter Putty along the yet always consider stealth hooklink again, helps keep when getting rods in place. things pinned to the deck, Tight Weave Leadcore and a with a section of shrink tube Sub Braid mainline would be steamed in position, acting my chosen components to as an anti-tangle sleeve. I complete the rig.

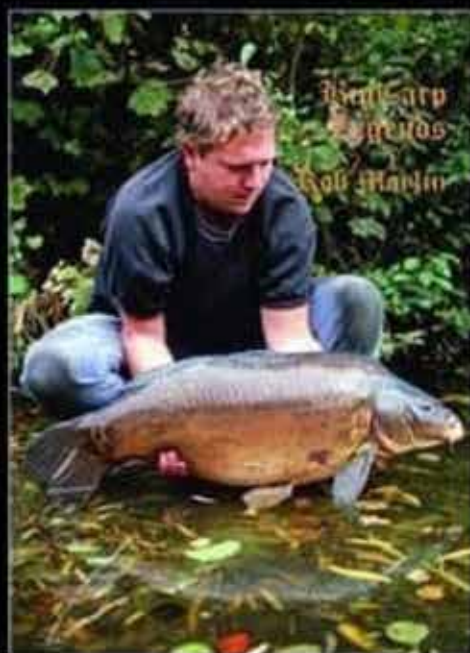
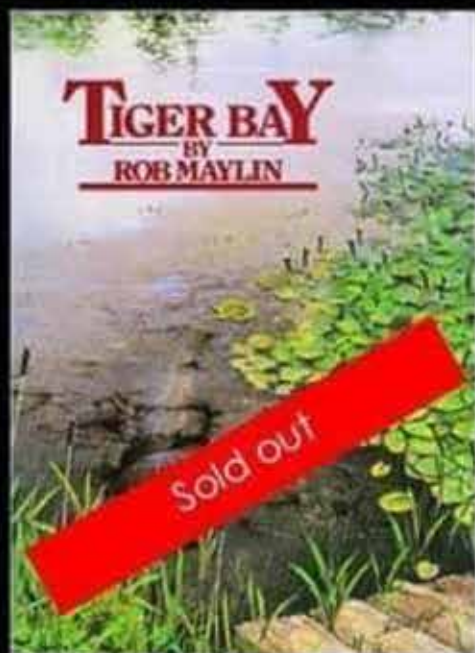
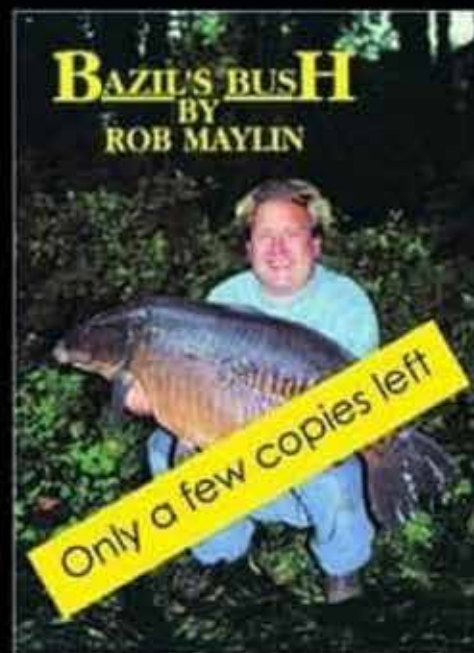
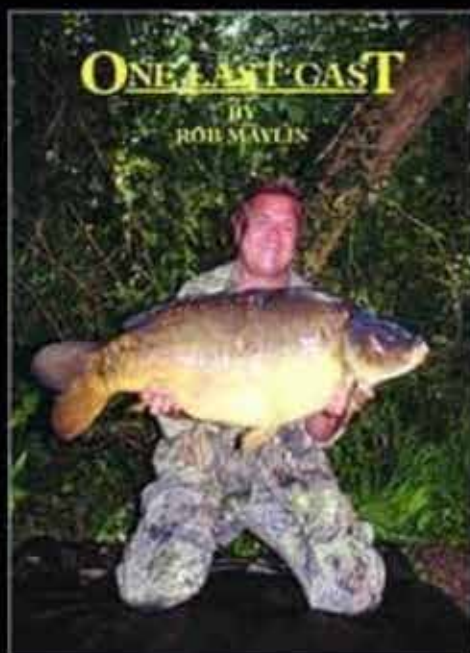
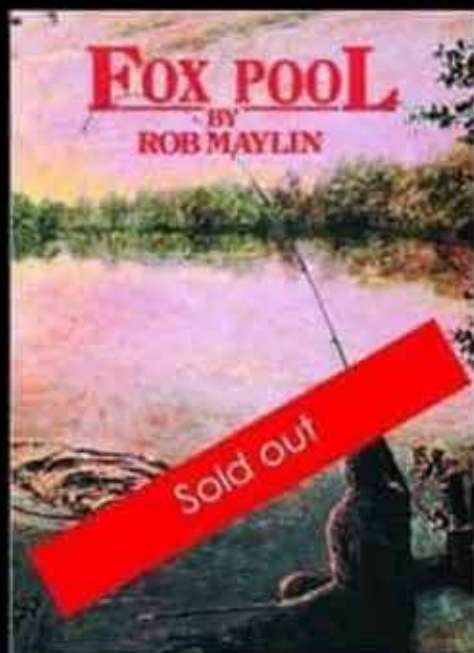
I find shrink tubing just that Elliott will usually fish this bit more discrete and neater rig with his ever-faithful than an actual anti-tangle Scent From Hell hookbait, sleeve. coated in Pink Squid Goo for

I favour using the heaviest maximum attraction.



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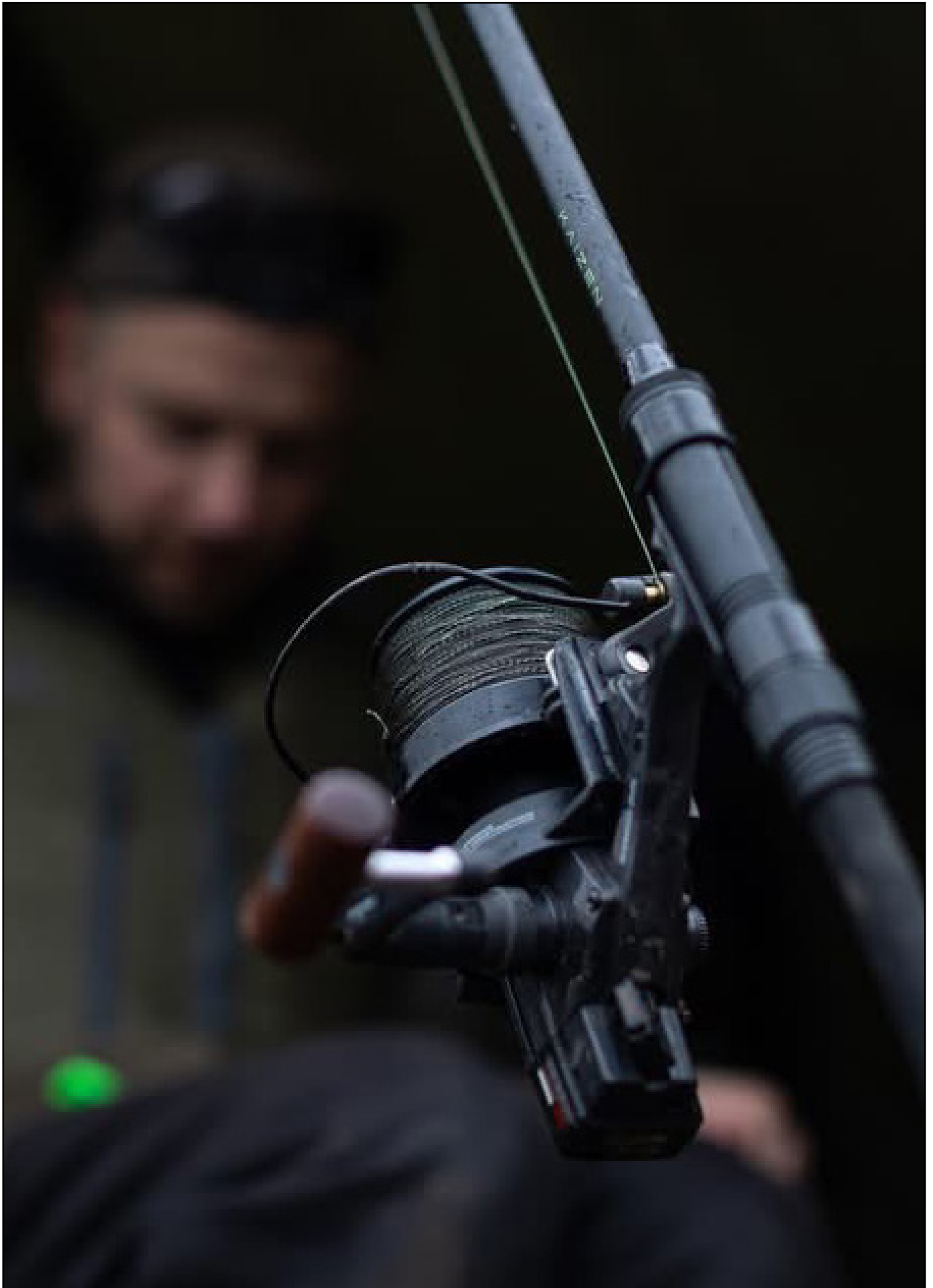
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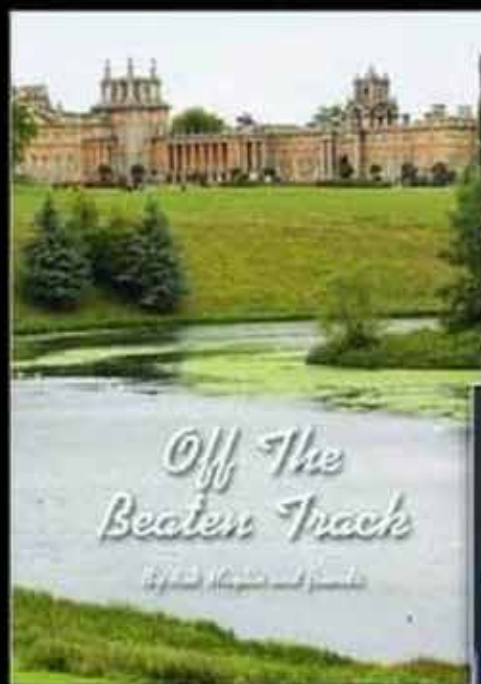






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JAMES HARRISON

DROPPING LEADS

Probably one of the most contentious issues in carp fishing is the practice of dropping leads. Lead is 'technically' highly toxic there is no denying that. Lead pipes used to supply all our homes with drinking water. Then a link was found with drinking water and lead poisoning which brought about the lead pipe ban and all houses from then on had to have non-lead pipework and all lead piping was replaced. It's this fact that has been twisted by many carp anglers and people in the trade to give out the

message that dropping leads is an environmental problem.

Now, there was definitely an issue with swans eating lead shot, of that there was no doubt, but the notion that larger fishing leads are a problem for our lakes is a completely different kettle of fish. If we take the most decisive fact, chemistry, lead does not react with fresh water (pH7 at 20 degrees and 1 bar of pressure). A lead will stay 100% in tact in fresh water. No decay, no release of toxins, no harm whatsoever to the environment. In order for it to dissolve in water it requires other elements to be present. A lead will however start to dissolve in soft, slightly acidic water. If the water contains sulphide or phosphate then the lead is rendered completely unreactive. So not all leads in every lake are potentially causing a problem. Lets also remember that most carp fishing leads are coated in

plastic or other materials to disguise them. These coatings will dramatically reduce any potential erosion time to negligible. Let's further remember that lead is a naturally occurring element found in the ground. The second fact about lead in drinking water is that the water was in a pipe running at high pressure. It's this pressure and the movement of the water in the pipe that eroded the lead. In a lake, the lead weight is not subjected to these same forces. So before you jump on the dropping leads is dangerous fence, maybe have a read up yourself.

So why do we drop leads at all? If you go back to the early carp books many of them document the use of 'rotten bottom' or light line links to leads as a way to get rid of them in snaggy or weedy situations. Playing a fish in such conditions is much easier without a lead hanging off the



line. The advent of the lead clip enabled you to still have the element of lead ejection but you could cast further and use heavier leads. It also allowed the carp to eject the lead if you were cut off.

In the mid to late 'noughties' the chod rig was in its heyday. Here was a rig you could cast anywhere and be presenting a bait. I was working for Advanced Carp Fishing magazine at the time and fishing a weedy lake, Monks Pit in Cambridgeshire. We were looking for a more efficient way to get rid of the lead after the take. Fishing chods with the bead set 6-10ft back from the lead put you in a less than ideal situation once the carp had picked the bait up. If the lead was stuck in the thick weed, playing and landing the fish was a nightmare. You often ended up with the carp up the line and a ball of

trailing weed a few feet below it - again, not ideal.

Inspiration came when a guy called James Parry wrote in to the magazine. He was a rope maker by trade and was using leads on spliced loops held on with a piece of spaghetti. The spaghetti softened in the water and the lead was able to release. For me the spaghetti took too long to soften

enough to release, but PVA nugget would be perfect. One evening I was round my good friend John Odriscoll's house trying to solve this issue when I had the eureka moment. I used an ESP leadclip with the arm cut off and a hole bored in one side. The end of the leadcore had a spliced loop and came down through the body as normal then a





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QUICKLY.

02



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A MINIMUM.

03



KEEP PHOTOS
SHORT.

04



KEEP THE CARP
WET AT ALL
TIMES.

05



ALLOW THE CARP
TO RECOVER
BEFORE RELEASE.

06



STOP FISHING
IF CARP STRUGGLE
TO RECOVER.

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bead was added and an over hand knot. The bead stopped the leadcore loop going back up the leadclip body. A lead was hung on the leadcore loop and with the use of a baiting needle the loop was pulled through the bored hole and up the stem of the lead clip. Once the loop was out a sliver of rolled PVA nugget was put in the loop to secure the lead for casting - IT WORKED!! I made the side hole longer to reduce the acute angle the lead core was at to make it release more easily once the nugget had softened. The two pieces of leadcore in the lead clip tail gave just enough friction for the lead to be picked up, set the hook, then fall off. The other thing it allowed you to do was pull the lead off from the bank. It didnt rely on the fish to do it. You couldn't do this with lead clips. The tiny PVA sliver could take a full



cast as well. It was a game changer.

Around the same time Korda released the first Underwater Video and this just proved to me how effective the rig was because as the carp were pricking themselves they could be seen shaking their heads and you could see the lead in the videos flying around and often pulling the hook out. With my system,

one shake of the head set the hook and dropped the lead.

It didn't just work with chod rigs. It was devastating in PVA bags. I was fishing Grenvilles at the time as well as Monk's Pit. At Grenvilles I went from catching 2-3 fish per 48hr session to 7-10 fish in the same period. Every week it was happening. I showed the set up to Simon Healy who ran Atomic Tackle at the time





and he bought it off me there and then. They refined it a little for commercial purposes using a rubber bead as the friction mechanism. Instead of the loop going back up the clip body it went through it at right angles. And so the Atomic Choppa Droppa was born - the first commercially available 'Heli-Safe' system. It took a long time for people to catch on to how good this lead set up was. It was so perfect for chod fishing. Heavy weed wasn't an issue. I knew I'd get some flack from people saying that the whole advantage of the Helicopter rig was that the lead could pull the main line/leader through the hook link swivel and leave a carp just trailing the hook link. This was something I

wrestled with but the reality was if you got cut off with a leadclip arrangement the carp was left trailing the same amount of gear. As that was acceptable, then so must the Choppa Droppa.

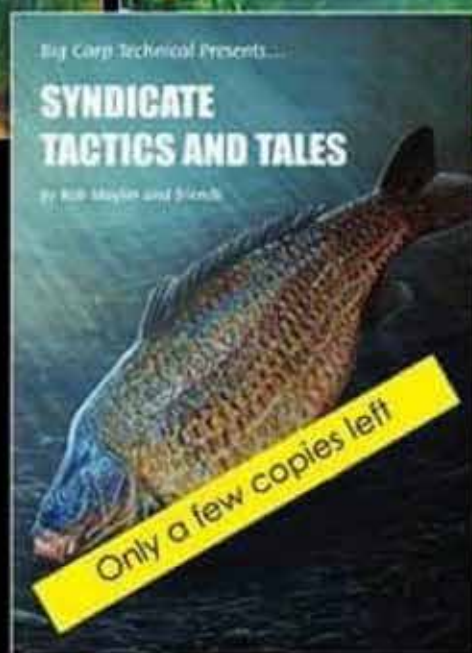
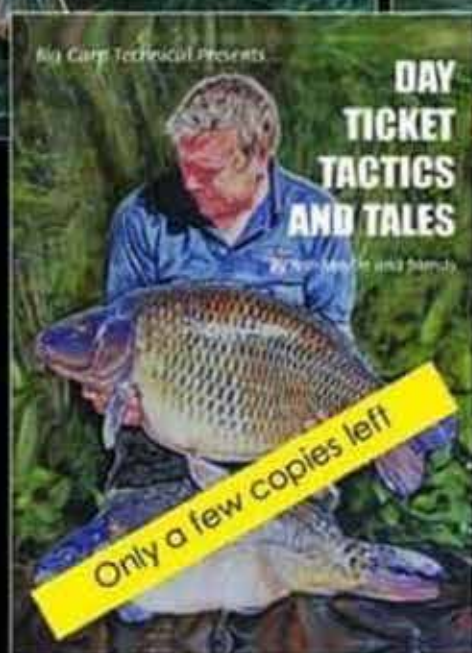
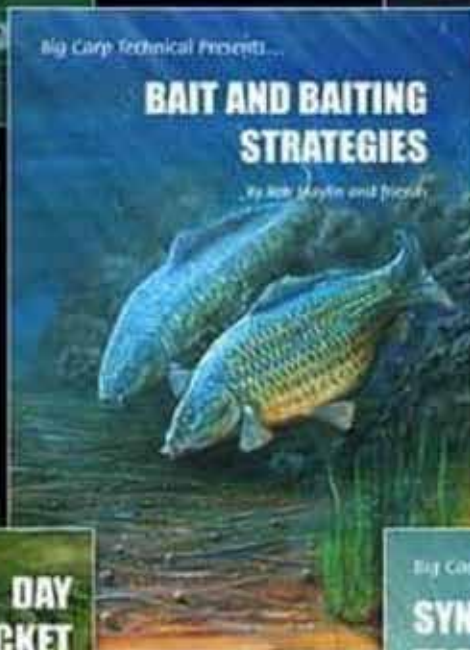
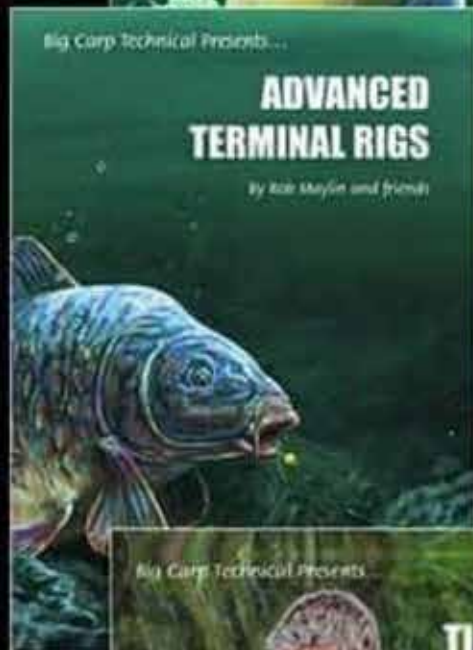
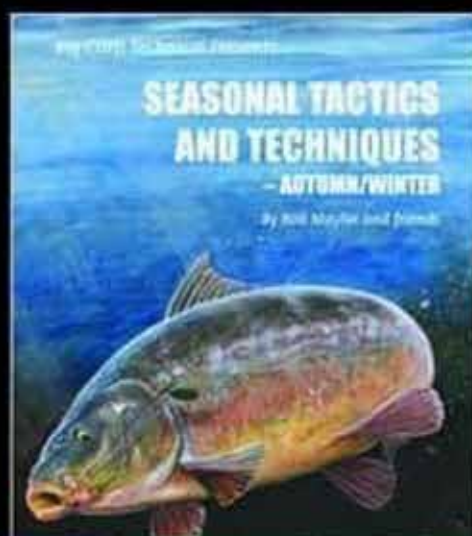
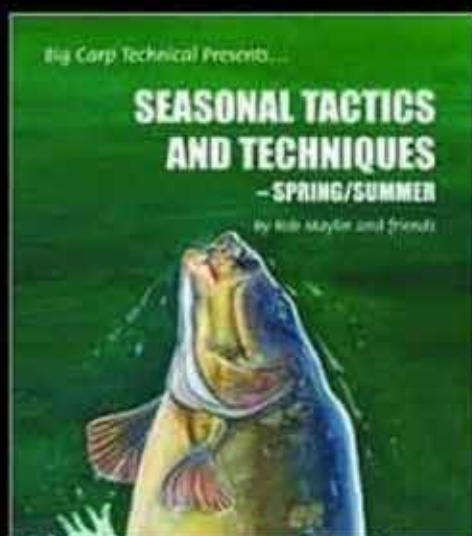
Eventually some companies released their versions of Choppa Droppa set up but they were so inferior - it was like they didnt fully understand what was going on when fishing in heavy weed. You

couldn't pull the lead off from the bank like the Choppa Droppa. The carp had to do it by pulling the hook link down to a base bead to release a spring to eject the lead. If the lead was covered in weed, that potentially couldn't happen. If the lead was stuck and the carp was up the line, the lead would never get released. Funny how anglers will use inferior products just because so and so uses them. Carp



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anglers just don't think any more.

Over the years I've refined what was the Choppa Droppato simply a loop of heavy braid. I have a std helicopter arrangement and the loop is tied to bottom eye of the swivel. The loop is long enough to go through an inline lead and then a bead is added to hold the lead on. If I'm casting I'll add the sliver of PVA nugget in the loop but for bait boat and boat work I

just rely on the bead to hold the lead on. Remarkably I lose very few leads on the retrieve. What tends to happen is the weed gathers around the heli-sleeve/hook link swivel and not the lead.

So in my mind dropping leads, particularly coated ones, is not an environmental issue and is a massive benefit to fish safety. Until someone clearly shows the direct link of carp sized leads causing pollution I will continue to do so.



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Mary and Mary's Mate, the icons of the great Wraysbury complex... The British Record in the arms of Terry Hearn and the brace which Sir Pete posed so wonderfully with on the back of his legends book are but two of the many captures which have earned these two awesome creatures their place in the Big Carp magazine legends hall of fame.

The A3 prints are very modestly priced at only £25 and are available now on the Big Carp website www.bigcarpmagazine.co.uk. Visit the site, go to the shop and select the 'Fine Art' section. There is also more information on the rest of the series, which will be available at one to two-month intervals, but I can tell you that the Black Mirror, the Burghfield Common, Heather, Jumbo, Jack, Mary, Clarissa, the Bishop, the Royal Forty, the Fat Lady, Mary's Mate etc are already on the list and we are up for any more favourites – just let us know – Rob Maylin

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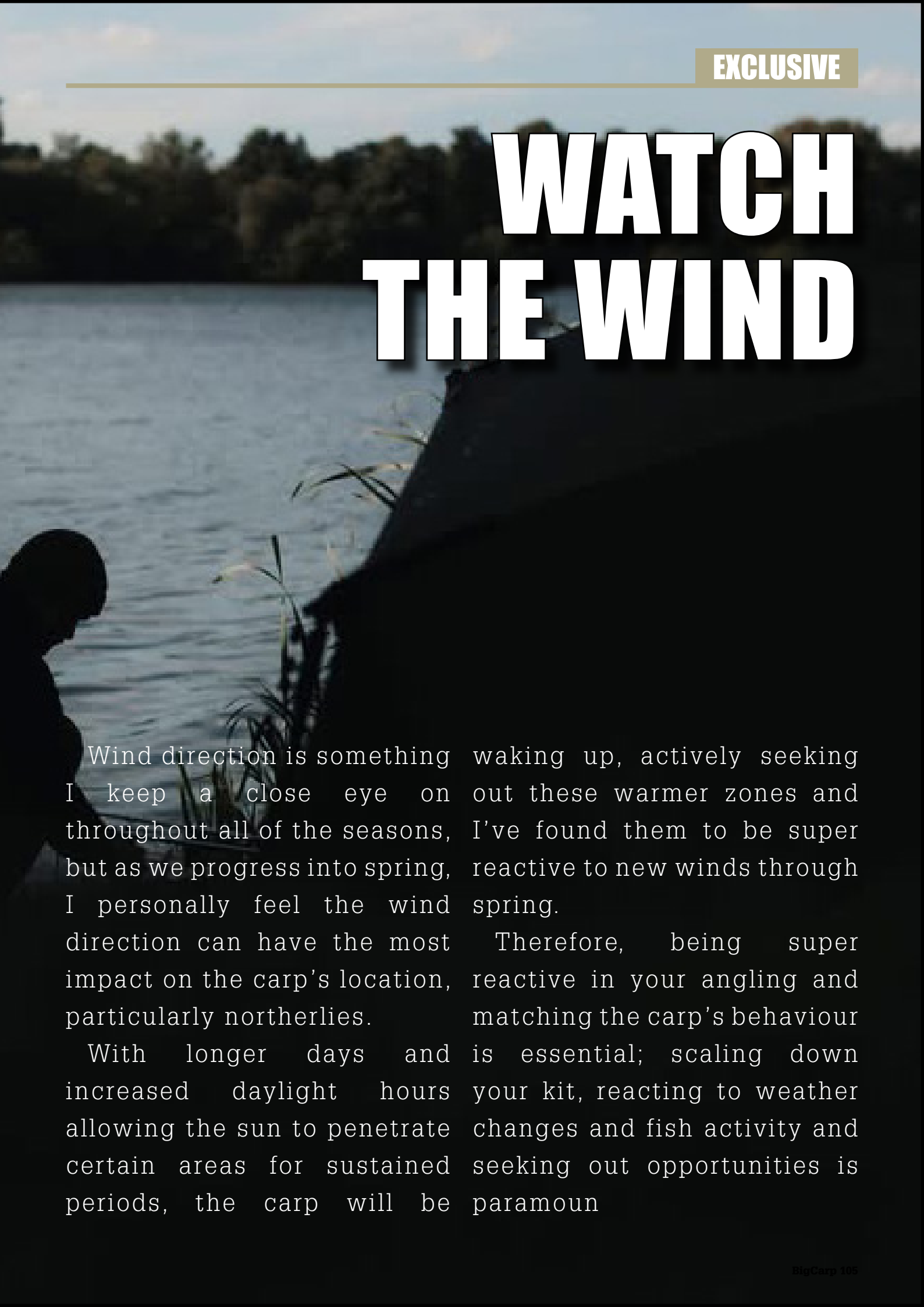
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LEE WHEELER

WATCH THE WIND



Wind direction is something I keep a close eye on throughout all of the seasons, but as we progress into spring, I personally feel the wind direction can have the most impact on the carp's location, particularly northerlies.

With longer days and increased daylight hours allowing the sun to penetrate certain areas for sustained periods, the carp will be

waking up, actively seeking out these warmer zones and I've found them to be super reactive to new winds through spring.

Therefore, being super reactive in your angling and matching the carp's behaviour is essential; scaling down your kit, reacting to weather changes and fish activity and seeking out opportunities is paramount

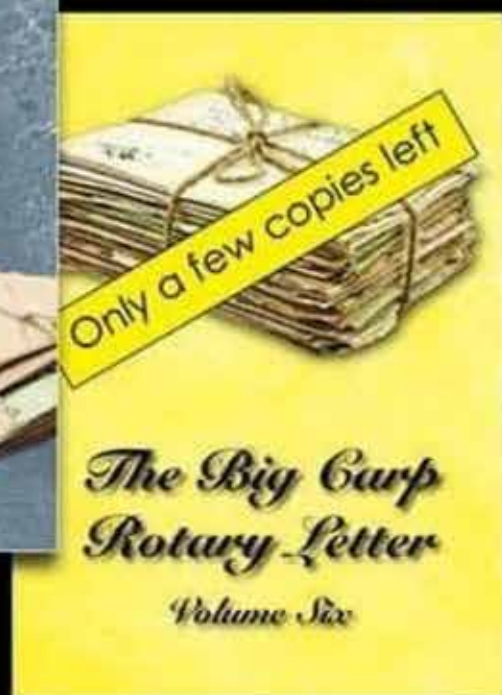
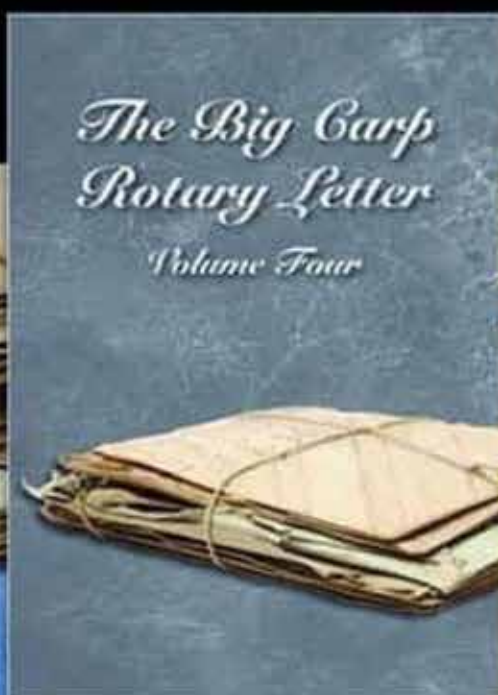
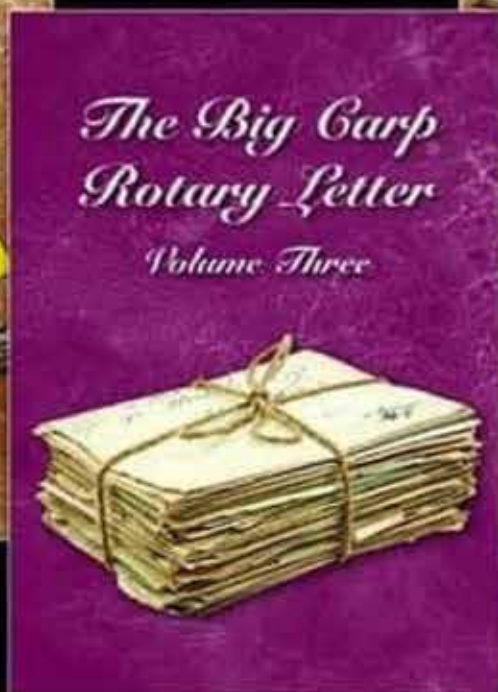
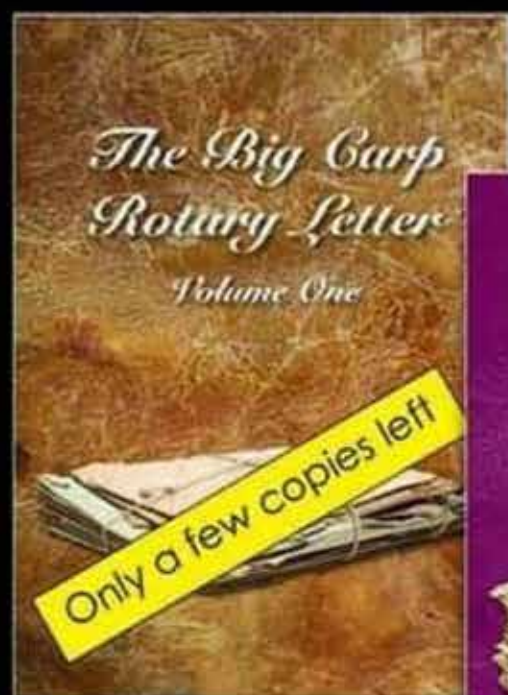






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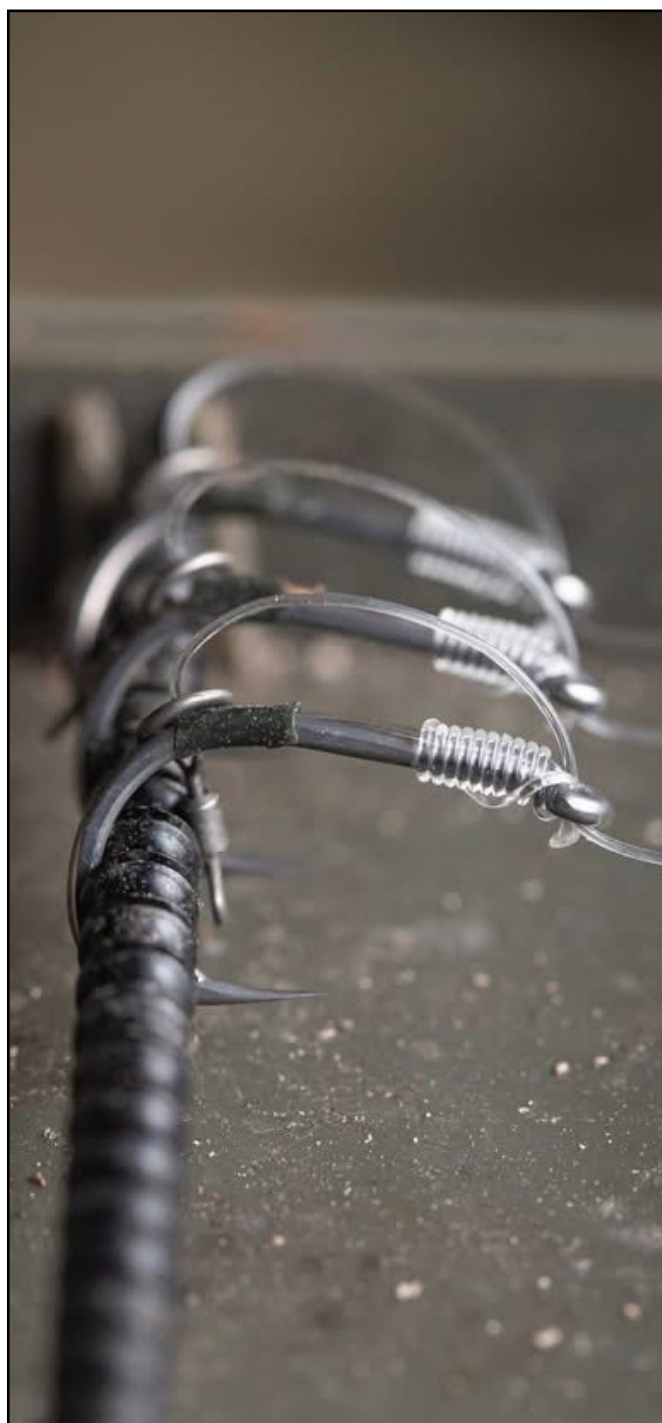
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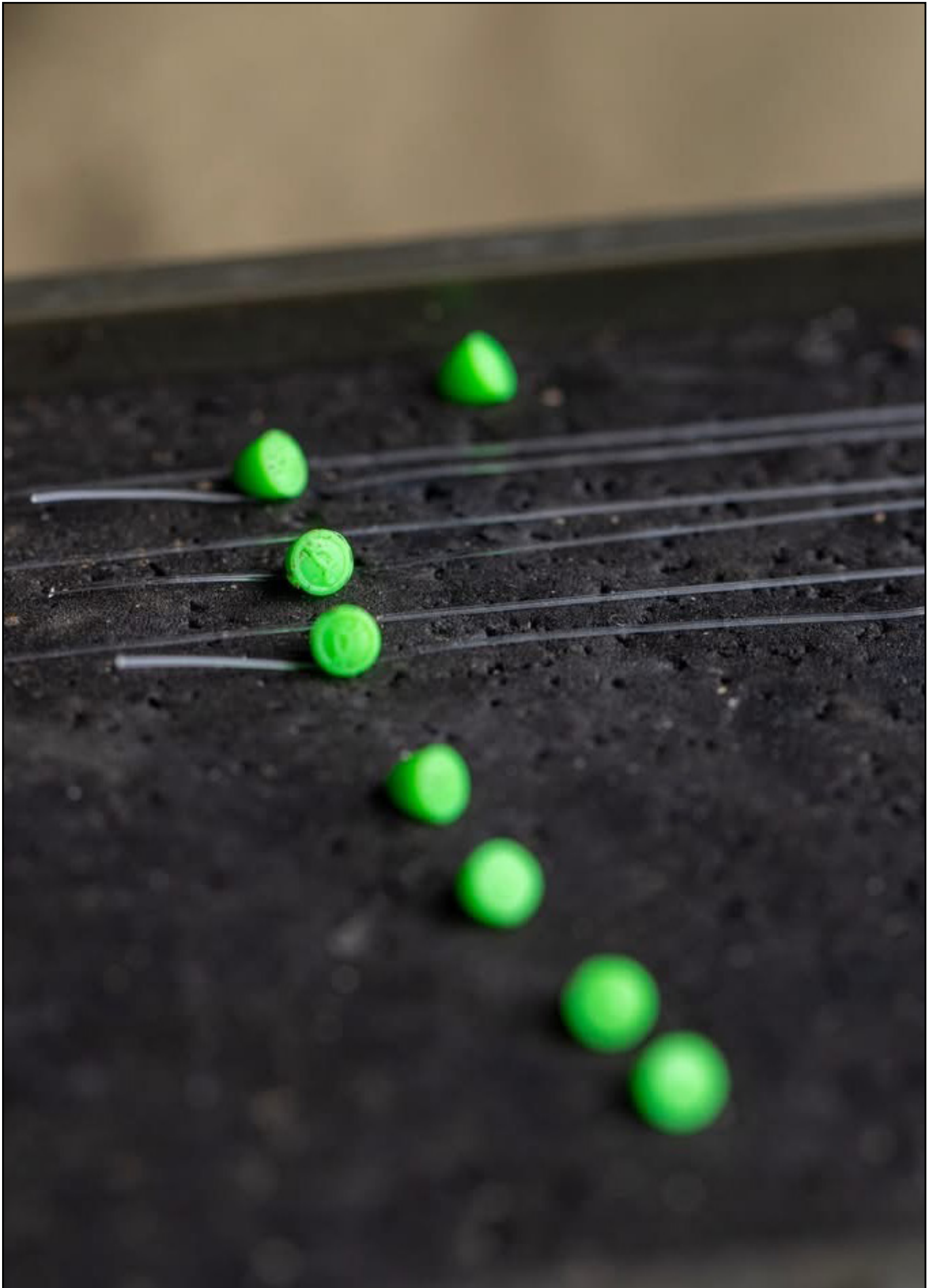
RIG PREP

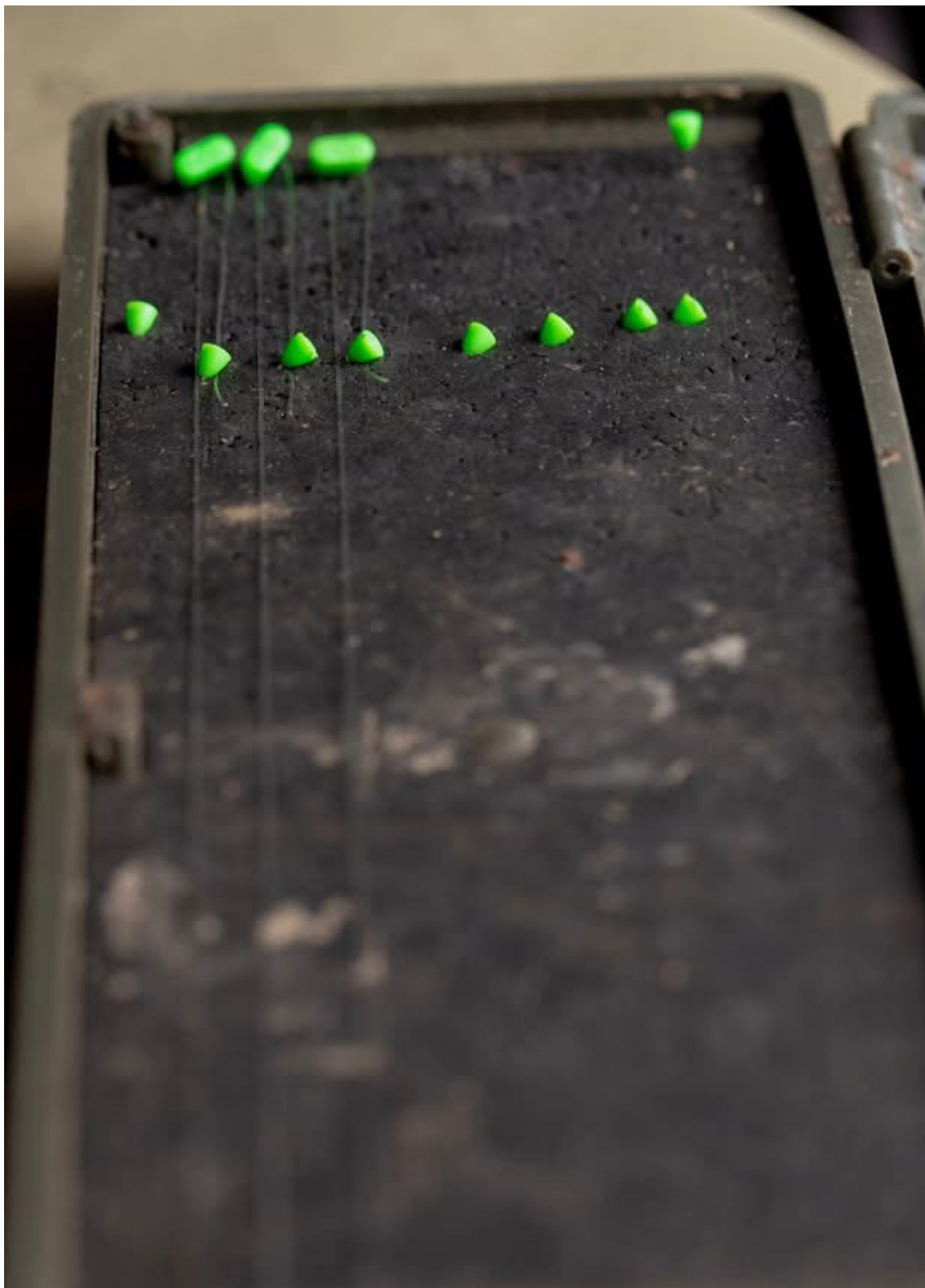
When it comes to having rigs prepped, I never have them pre tied to a particular length, I much prefer to decide on the length of the rig once I have had a lead about and I know exactly what I'm fishing over. What I tend to do for my D rigs is just tie them longer than I need, pin them using a double pin at the top of the rig board and then use a single pin to trap the excess material down. I do a similar thing with my chod sections, I leave them cut longer than I need in a little tube, then depending if I'm fishing a high single or a low pop-up section on a hinge, I can krimp them

on accordingly. I do not create the D section on my chods until I use the rig, this is so I can reuse the cork ball pop up and the rig ring, if I blunt my hook and need to change rig and the hook bait is still fresh,

I can quickly cut the previous D then thread the ring with the bait attached over the new tag end, create the D, then krimp the other end to swivel and your ready to go, without the need to use a new hookbait







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This is the first in a series of watercolour paintings capturing England's fantastic carp history. 'The Legendary Big Carp series' has been especially commissioned to celebrate a massive milestone in Big Carp magazine's history – the 200th issue! Basil, that famous Yateley North Lake legend, seen here in her natural habitat, is the first in a set of numbered and signed prints – absolutely breathtaking and scale perfect. The A3 prints are very modestly priced at only £25 and are available now on the Big Carp website www.bigcarpmagazine.co.uk. Visit the site, go to the shop and select the 'Fine Art' section. There is also more information on the rest of the series, which will be available at one to two-month intervals, but I can tell you that the Black Mirror, the Burghfield Common, Heather, Jumbo, Jack, Mary, Clarissa, the Bishop, the Royal Forty, the Fat Lady, Mary's Mate etc are already on the list and we are up for any more favourites – just let us know – Rob Maylin

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RICH HOGG

CANAL SESSIONS PART 5

30th May 2017

Absolutely chuffed with this one after an early finish from work. She was the best of about 3 fish (that I could see) that were in the area so when I saw a tail sticking out from under a small bed of lilies not far out, I just had to make the most of a golden opportunity and drop a biscuit right on the edge

of some dead reed and wait patiently, a few minutes later... sluurp!!! It's amazing what you can do with a spare half hour or so and a pocket full of mixers!

11th June 2017

For me, it's not so much what you catch but where you catch them from and how you go about fooling them. I popped out last night



for a quick look around and stumbled across a couple of commons, nothing special but as they were the 1st fish to show in nearly 2 weeks they were a welcome sight.

So, at first light I snuck out and dropped a couple of rigs onto some likely spots where the fish were. After a

few hours of no action and with the sun edging its way higher in the sky, I thought any chance of a fish had passed... until the same 2

fish from last night cruised past under my rod tips and headed towards my right-hand rig. I crouched down by my rods and watched them disappear down onto my spot. Within seconds I was into this hard fighting common giving me my first one this month :-)

Unfortunately, the smaller of the 2 but hey, you can't pick and choose and like I say, sometimes it's not what you catch but how.



13th June 2017

Absolutely made up with this old canal warrior from this morning.

The fish picked the bait up and before I even made it to the rod, it had ploughed straight into the snags on the far bank. I waited for a bit to see if she'd free herself but it all went solid. The only thing left to do was to take the net across to the other side, wade out up to my waste and hope she was still on.

As you can see luck was on my side as I just managed to slip the net under her!

I also picked up a bonus tench not long before, a right fat old thing so not a bad few hours.

15th June 2017

I snuck out again this morning at first light for another quick couple of hours before work.

With the rods out just before the sun came up, I hadn't got much hope of any action but



this angry little fully was the best of two fish, both propa little gems and well worth the early start.

25th June 2017

Absolutely chuffed! I've been blessed with some really stunning fish over the last few weeks but none more so than this one from this weekend. A right little fatty in pristine condition from mouth to tail!

Again, she was the best of two fish in as many hours, these short sessions in the right place really coming up with a few good results!

I was fishing tight to some snags on the far bank with just a handful of freebies in the general area, idea being for the fish to actively search and pick out each bait, rather than to feed off a tight spot.



Seemed to work and as a bonus I didn't find myself being pestered by diving birds.

9th July 2017

Well, a few blanks, a million tench and 1 lost carp later, this weekend I finally get stuck in to this propa dark canal common.

I was gutted about losing one the other week, especially as bank time is limited and the

only way to get over a lost fish is to get out and put another one on the bank.

After the tench had come and gone and nearly cleaned me out of bait, this old dinosaur took a fancy to my offerings and made it all worth it on another short morning sesh.

30th July 2017

PB Mirror!!!

I'm absolutely chuffed to



bits with this one! It's been another quiet few weeks, but when your targeting quality rather than quantity this is what carp fishing is all about. Being tested over a course of time sticking at it when things don't go your way then finally coming out on top.

Iv dropped lucky over the years with big commons gracing the net but 20lb+ mirrors have always seemed

to avoid me... until now!

2nd August 2017

Propa little fighting machine from this morning!

This long and lean character nearly ripped my left-hand rod clean off the alarm as it made its bid for freedom!

I only had a couple of hours before shooting off to work and as the seconds were ticking away it seemed less and less likely that anything





was going to happen but right at the dying minutes this old chap slipped up :-) Happy days

6th August 2017

It's definitely been a good start to August with another early morning canal mirror on the bank from earlier this weekend. No monster but a proper character, and with each one being different to the next how could I ever get

tired of fishing canals?

This one coming as I was packing away so a lovely last-minute surprise once again. Hours of peace for minutes of chaos!

13th August 2017

Check out this absolute football of a common from this weekend. Certainly, the fattest canal carp I've caught.

Only the length of a low



double and not the lean fighting machines that I'd need to be on the rods for asap, but variety is the spice of canal carping and she's a stunner all the same.

Taken on another quick morning session and this time on a new bait for me, Nash monster pursuit from Cannock angling centre.

A quick couple of pics and some care to an old wound before slipping her straight back.

17th August 2017

I can't say I'm all that keen

on wading out into the cut, especially once the water gets past a certain depth ;-) one thing I am keen on though is slipping the net under fish like this.

Another old canal warrior that fancied playing hard to get by ending up locked in the reeds, seconds after picking up the bait.

For the fishes' sake and for my own, I will always choose uncomfortable wet clothes over a lost / damaged fish any day!

Big shout to the Mrs for chuckin me a few hours bankside on our





10-year anniversary

22nd August 2017

A right little character from this morning!

Possibly one of the most bizarre ways iv outwit a fish. The gear was packed away and I was nearly ready to go but I caught a glimpse of this white shape cruise slowly past under my feet.

On a whim I screwed a bait on my rig and (all but the lead) under-armed it into the path of the fish and bang! Nailed it straight away as it slowly sank.

What a last-minute opportunity

3rd September 2017!

So yesterday I made a last second decision to drop onto the good old Staffs Worcs canal for the first time this year.

I went to a spot that's often come up with half decent fish in the past and I'm glad I returned for another sesh as I managed to put 2 fish on the bank in a short morning, this one being not just the best of the 2, but a new pb for this stretch



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The A3 prints are very modestly priced at only £25 and are available now on the Big Carp website www.bigcarpmagazine.co.uk. Visit the site, go to the shop and select the 'Fine Art' section. There is also more information on the rest of the series, Rob Maylin.

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CUSTOMER REVIEWS

Big shoutout to the lads at Digger Boats Ltd
I've been living onsite at Carthage Fisheries for
23 years now, and we've had plenty of work done
over the years... but this one tops the lot!

We've been fighting a losing battle with reeds tak-
ing over the entrance to one of our bays for a few
years now. Even tried getting in ourselves with dry
suits and pulling them out by hand absolutely brutal
work and getting nowhere fast... was starting to
think we'd lose the bay completely.

On top of that, the carp were loving it — hiding in
the reeds and becoming a nightmare to catch
We'd had other companies in before with weed boats,
but if I'm honest, the results just weren't great.

Got James from Digger Boats in, he came down,
had a proper look and got stuck in... and what a job
they've done!

3 days later and the place has been completely
transformed it's something I've wanted sorted for
years and it's finally done.

Already this spring we've had over 22 fish out —
including a few we haven't seen in years! Normal-
ly we'd only see a handful by now. Can't recommend
them enough — top lads, proper job done

Thanks again boys — Jerry Hammond

“

A massive thank you to Digger Boats you did
an amazing job on our lake 🙌

Anyone reading this, these guys are 10/10
very professional and didn't stop for 2 days
solid.

Estimated amount of debris recovered
60tons, they did a fantastic job and I would
highly recommend 🙌

★★★★★

Stuart Stockton
Chesterton Community Angling Club



Neil Ellis recommends Digger Boats.

39m · 🌐

diggerboats.com has just completed some norfolk reed
removal on one of our club lakes. The diggerboats team
worked their socks off and done a great job giving great
value for money, going well beyond what was the basic
requirement, feedback from members has been really
positive with how the lake is now looking.
If you are a club or commercial fishery looking for a
professional fishery management/ maintenance company then
give diggerboats a call, we at Colchester Piscatorial Society
are already looking at more fallen tree removal work for the
diggerboat team to undertake !



Mark Turrell

Great job done, can't believe the difference, thank you guys at Digger boat 🙌🍷



Top fan

Stuart Stockton

Fantastic company highly recommend these guys they did a fantastic job on our lake
Highly knowledgeable and didn't stop for 2 days
A very professional service 🙌

The company can carry out any aquatic projects on Rivers, Canals, Lakes,
Ponds and Marinas. Weed removal, dredging, water deepening, reed and
rush removal, aquatic tree works and much more.

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Rob's Ramblings

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bigcarpstudio@hotmail.
co.uk

Design & Production
James Harrison

Also available this
month Big Carp issue
360



Front Cover:
James Buckler with
a cracking Cotswold
mirror



YOUNG ANGLER SUPPORT INITIATIVE

THANKYOU to everyone that continues to support - I don't do it for any financial gain - I do it because I absolutely love 'Oxford' and the potential that 'we have to offer' to the next generation - and let's face it, a generation where a great number are struggling.

Pretty much why we spend time outside. So I leave you with a couple of pictures - this is the quality of what the initiative offers.....because this is the quality of people involved.

ALL donated items are distributed for **FREE** to our counties young anglers.

8. CARP CHAT

16. CARP SCENE

22. GARY SATT

32. JAMIE GIBBS

40. JAMES BUCKLER

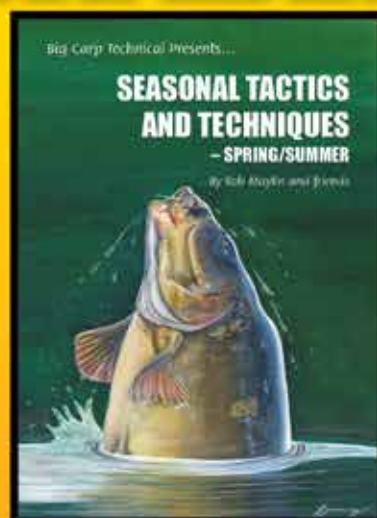
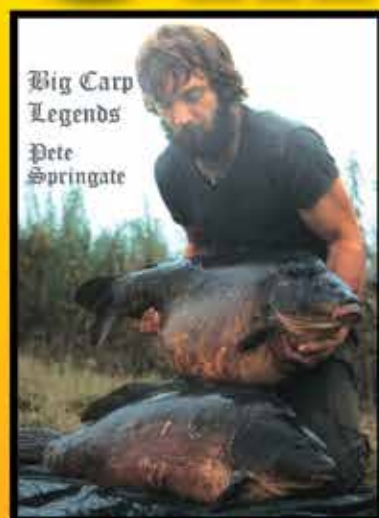
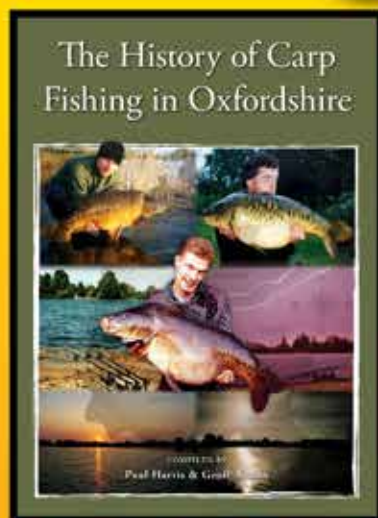
46. MARK KERRIDGE

**60. MITCH
HAMMONDS**

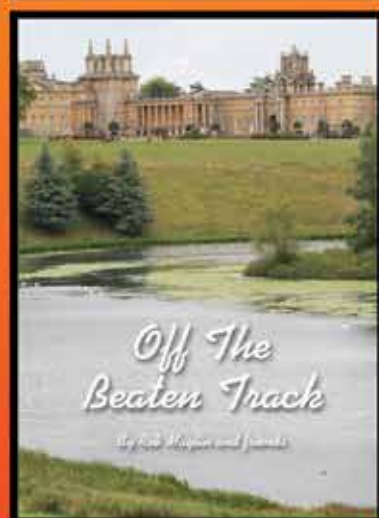
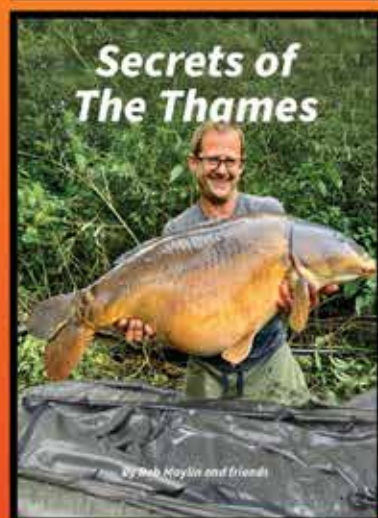
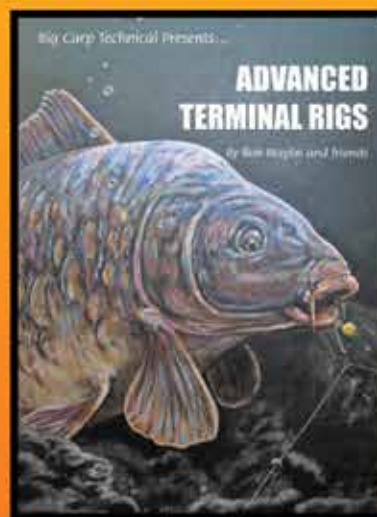
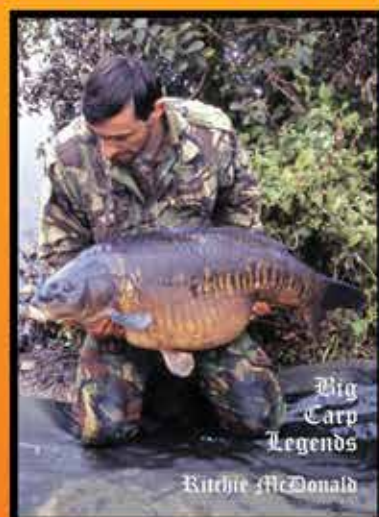
**64. NATHAN
HIGHLEY**



SUMMER S

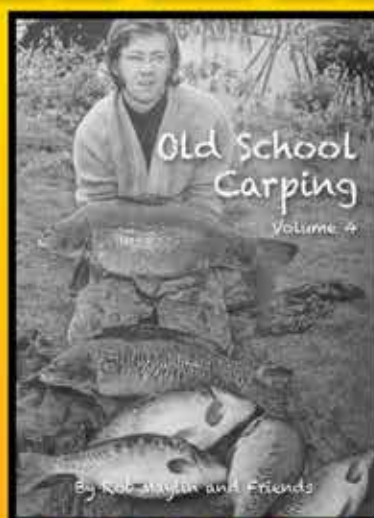
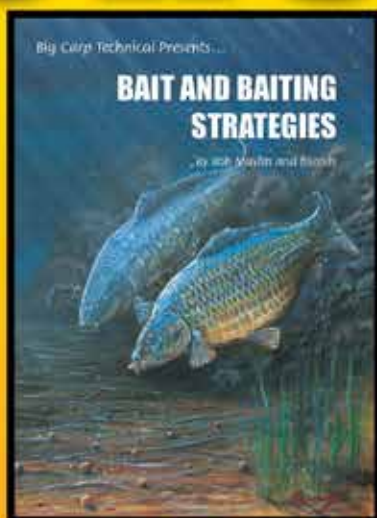


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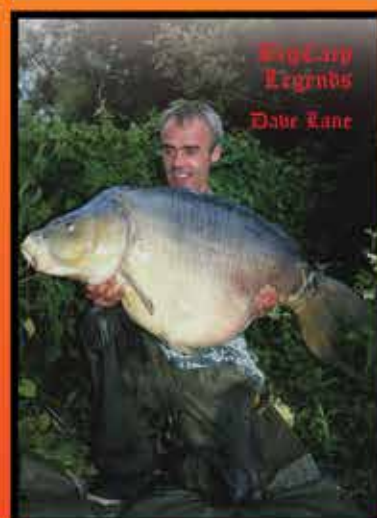
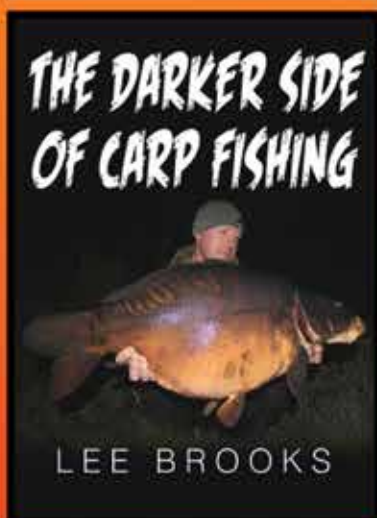
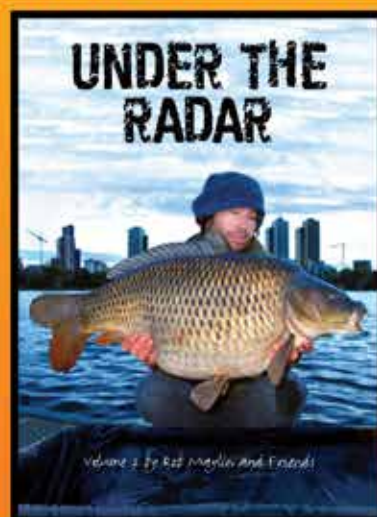
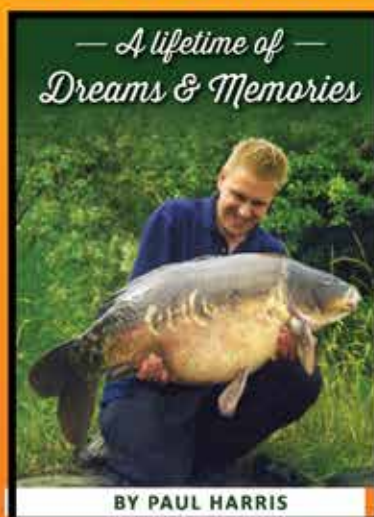
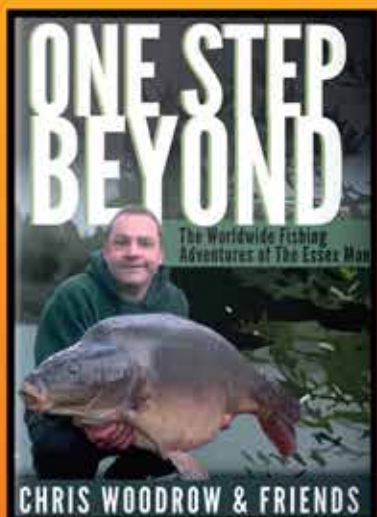


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CORCHERS



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EA CRACK DOWN ON ILLEGAL ANGLING



We've been back at Attenborough Nature Reserve following reports of individuals fishing illegally.

We'll be continuing to patrol the reserve and surrounding area to catch and stop those who think they can break the rules.

Remember, if you want to report any information to us you can do this through our incident hotline at 0800 80 70 60. The information provided is crucial to help us plan our patrols.



THE #1 FRENCH CARP FISHING VENUE

2 VENUES · 6 LAKES

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RIP ZYG GREGOREK



It's with great sadness to announce that my dear Dad, full and his glass was always Grandad and Husband to my full too!

beautiful Mum Rose passed away peacefully this morning. Please respect our familie's privacy at this time that we Zygy Gregorek will live on in are grieving.

our hearts forever and we Here's to you Dad/Zyg - catch will continue his legacy and big up there, we will miss you do him proud. There will but we will NEVER FORGET always only ever be one ZYG, YOU

he lived the best life and Love you always x

BLUEBELL LAKES MAGAZINE

You could never put a price tag on a stunning Common like it, the

March 1997 Dave Scales landed her at 36lbs and only October that same year that Benson came out for the first time over 40lbs by Mark Ryder. People



June 1995 first ever picture of Benson caught by Alan Kariss



Aug 2004 Lee Birch



October 1997 Mark Ryder

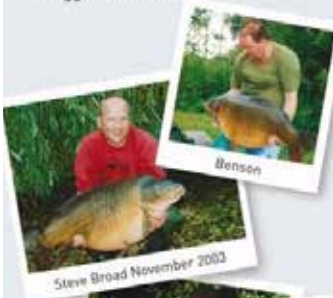


Benson

The following year Benson came out even bigger at 58lb 8oz

"The Creature",

On the 28th July 2009 sadly Benson was found dead on the bank of Kingfisher after being at Bluebell Lakes for 16 years. She was caught 68 times of 4 of these were by the same angler. She earned her place in Wikipedia and in national and local papers. The media storm eventually slowed down but the legacy continues, and Bluebell lakes continues to thrive and forever be known as the home of Benson.



Steve Broad November 2003



Bensons Legacy: Who's been into our tackle shop and seen our iconic Benson on the wall? Read all about her history and catch report in our latest Bluebell Lakes magazine, available to download for free from our website or pick up a free copy when visiting us.



WEIRD FISH SPONSOR POLLUTION CAMPAIGN



We're delighted to announce that Weird Fish Clothing have come on board as a sponsor of our Anglers Against Pollution campaign alongside Orvis and Angling Direct, and have launched an exclusive range of T-shirts to raise funds and awareness of the campaign. The initial launch comprises four

shirts which are available online and through Weird Fish retail stores throughout the country. Weird Fish have confirmed that they will donate £5 to the campaign for every T-shirt sold. With over 800 volunteers carrying out water quality checks on the rivers and estuaries they fish, right around the country, the Anglers Against Pollution campaign is using the key data collected to step-up the pressure on water companies, the government, industry and agriculture to clean up their act and stop polluting our rivers, lakes and seas. And the best news - if you're an Angling Trust member you receive a 20% discount on all purchases at Weird Fish! Login to your member dashboard or keep an eye on your inbox today for the all important discount code. <https://www.weirdfish.co.uk/p/new-arrivals/angling-trust>

INAUGURAL ATA ANGLING SUMMIT CONFIRMED FOR NOV '26

The first-ever UK Angling Summit - organised by the Angling Trades Association - will take place in November with the aim of bringing the UK tackle trade together and providing a wealth of useful information for manufacturers, distributors, agents, retailers and fisheries alike.

The event is scheduled to take place on Thursday, November 19th at The Arden Hotel, Birmingham and will feature a string of high-profile speakers and industry experts from across the world, discussing key topics that impact UK trade and recreational angling.

BIG CARP

fine arts

WATERCOLOUR CARP PAINTINGS

The Legendary Big Carp Series



Here she is at last! Regarded by many as the 'ultimate' big carp, the stunning Black Mirror, captured here beneath the Colnemere snags. The Black Mirror joins Basil and Heather in our 'legendary carp hall of fame', soon to be joined by other famous carp that have shaped our big carp heritage, starred alongside the UK's most famous carp anglers and made us all gasp at their beauty and give those who have dedicated their lives in pursuit of them, the utmost respect. One of my favourite carp of all time – strong, dark and so very difficult to put on the mat. Once again an absolute masterpiece, the one and only Black Mirror is available now as a small number of signed and numbered prints (100). Anyone interested in this or any of the others take a look at the website.

At the very modest price of £25, this is a collection not to be missed.

There will never be a collection like this again. Now is your only chance to own the history fish collection.

Price £25.00 plus £8.00 Recorded Delivery and tube.

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BIG CARP

fine arts
presents
WATERCOLOUR CARP PAINTINGS
The Legendary Big Carp Series



Burghfield Common

The sixth in our series of Legendary Carp paintings is none other than that awesome creature, the Burghfield Common.

Only discovered in recent years, Nigel Sharp rocked the carp angling world when he finally landed the beast after a five-year campaign, during which time he had only seen this leviathan on a handful of occasions.

Regarded by many as the original myth, there was much speculation about its existence at all, until it was finally landed at an incredible weight of 50lbs.

Quite how it had evaded capture for so many years is still a mystery, but due to the vast size of this huge gravel pit, it simply became the needle in the haystack.

Once its existence was verified by that first capture, an army of the country's top carp anglers have invaded Burghfield's banks and some feared its mystery would be lost forever.

But no, this incredible beast has still proven to be virtually uncatchable with only a very few captures in the past half a dozen years.

Undeniably a legend, this beautiful animal well and truly deserves its place in the Big Carp Hall Of Fame. Coming soon – the Royal Forty...

Strictly Limited to only 100 signed and numbered by the artist.

The A3 prints are very modestly priced at only £25 and are available now on the Big Carp website www.bigcarpmagazine.co.uk. Visit the site, go to the shop and select the 'Fine Art' section. There is also more information on the rest of the series, which will be available at one to two-month intervals, but I can tell you that the Black Mirror, the Burghfield Common, Heather, Jumbo, Jack, Mary, Clarissa, the Bishop, the Royal Forty, the Fat Lady, Mary's Mate etc are already on the list and we are up for any more favourites – just let us know – Rob Maylin

Price £25.00 plus £8.00 Recorded Delivery and tube.

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Carp Scene

ATOMIC TACKLE SUPREMACY MAIN LINE AND UTILE BRAIDS AND BRAID





There is more to the Supremacy line of products than just braid. We have taken 2 decades of manufacturing hooklinks over to Mainlines to produce what we consider the pinnacle in development of in the team's words some of the best mainlines they have ever used!

Working closely with one of the best manufacturers in Germany #Supremacy will wipe the floor with what has come before it. Alongside the #Supremacy we also have some utility coming! Again developed to push the limits of low resistance, no stretch & long range capability. You will see new dedicated Spod & Marker braids entering the range along with 2 Shock Leaders to compliment the new mainlines that are inbound.

MORE DETAILS SOON!!

ESP HIDEOUT SHELTER



easy open fronted warm weather broly, or a winter fortress with the sides and front door all zipped up! Bigger brother of the LoPro. Integrated sides that roll back.

Broly weight 4.15kg, total weight including all accessories 7.90kg. Groundsheet included.

Pack down length 1.8m. Will fit most quivers! Removable door with mozy infill. Dedicated Mozy Mesh available.

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ULTRALOCK

The ultimate in rod security. The rod is securely held in place under lock and key. The side bar locks at the 9 o'clock position and is released when you press it down to the 6 o'clock position. Simple - easy - reliable. Individual inserts from 12mm - 25mm perfectly match your rod. There's no compromise here. A must for fishing locked up, snag fishing or when fishing your rods out in the lake. Your rod has never been this secure. Manufactured from almost indestructable nylon using the very latest lazer technology right here in the UK.

www.sharptackle.co.uk



SONIK MAGLEV REELS



The Sonik Maglev is an advanced big pit carp fishing reel designed for extreme-range casting and heavy-duty fish playing. Available in 14000 and 18000 sizes, it features a lightweight magnesium body, a 45mm distance casting spool, and an impressive \30 \text{ kg}\) Quick-Torque drag system.

Combines an ultra-long 45mm stroke with slow O.S.C. oscillation for flawless line lay and maximum distance. Line Control: Features an IntraSpool floating rotor line guard to prevent line from slipping



under the spool. Power: Equipped with 11+1 shielded stainless steel ball bearings and precision machine-cut gearing. Durability: Incorporates a lightweight yet incredibly tough magnesium body and forged carbon rotor.

- Ultra-lite and tough magnesium body construction
- Advanced forged carbon rotor
- Ultra-long 45mm distance casting spool
- Slow O.S.C. for optimum line lay and casting performance
- IntraSpool™ floating rotor line guard
- Precision CNC machine-cut brass and aluminium gearing
- Stainless steel mainshaft and wormshaft gear system
- Twin captive sprung line clips
- Advanced cross carbon Quick-Torque drag system
- Oversized ceramic twist-free line roller
- Silk black anodised CNC aluminium handle with classic wood barrel grip
- Lubrication port for easy maintenance (oil supplied)
- Instant anti-reverse
- BC0071 – 0.35/780 0
- RRP: from £135
- www.soniksports.com



BUZZING AT BLUEBELL

In spring 2018, I decided to go and do some sessions on Bluebell Lakes. The first session, I had one bite, but then the second session I had six bites but only landed three with two being PBs, a brace with a 32lb 4oz mirror and a 40lb common. I just had to get back, knowing what's in there! The next session, I set myself a target of five fish. I got back down, got on the fish, but I couldn't get a bite even though fish were showing on me and fizzing. The next afternoon, I had a bite on a zig, a 23lb mirror, and that night, I had a few fish, mostly 20s up to 28lb. Then next morning, I had five slings in the water with three containing 30lb-plus fish: a 30lb mirror, a 36lb scaly as you like mirror and a long, lean 33lb common, which topped the session off. I landed 14 fish, and I was absolutely buzzing.



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£29.95 for 20kg

Our blend combines carefully selected cereals with meat and bone meal to create a versatile groundbait base for carp and coarse fishing. When mixed with water, the cereal ingredients help produce the cloud, texture, and consistency that many anglers look for when preparing groundbait mixes. Suitable for use as a bulk ingredient in feeder and carp fishing mixes, providing texture and volume to your bait preparation.

Why Choose CobbyCarp?

- ☐ Cost-effective bulk groundbait base
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- ☐ Great value 20kg bag

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BIG FISH WEEKEND

Well, I've just got back from a session of a lifetime. I've been on Birch Lake at Old Mill Fisheries. I got there Friday morning at around 9am, straight from work, did a quick lap of the Round Lake, and not seeing anything thing of real interest, I opted to fish a peg called Sands. To be honest, I fancied the peg before I arrived, as I knew the southwesterly wind would be hacking in there all weekend and was bound to push a few fish in there.

I got myself all set up, fishing the left hand rod at a popular



spot at nine and a half wraps to the tall birch tree, the middle rod just off island in front and the third to the reed line on my right. After only an hour, my right rod ripped off, and as soon as I picked it up, it was off. I was gutted, as you don't get many chance on Birch, and with so many good fish in there, you never want to lose one. I got the rod set back up and decided to have an hour, as I'd been working all night.

It was around 4pm when I was awoken with my right hand rod going in to meltdown, and as soon as I picked the rod up, I could tell it was a good fish. Thankfully it decided to stay in the bay, and after a good five-minute battle, it was in the net and looked very close to my PB. It fell for a Trent Baits Pink Freshwater Shrimp wafter on an Ibhooks Curve 6 IQ rig. Once in the sling and weighed, it went 4oz past my PB at 35lb 8oz.

I was buzzing, as I'd only been fishing a few hours. I got the rods all set back up and baited for the night. It was a quiet night, as nights normally are on Birch, with most fish coming in the day.

The night came and went with not even a beep. I left the rods till around 10am before doing a recast and topping the bait up. At around 12noon, my right hand went off again. I lifted up in to it, and again it felt a good fish. It kited right, trying to get round the island. I gave it as much side strain as I dared,



and thankfully it turned before it got past the point. It stayed deep and plodded around the bay for a few minutes before coming to the surface around 30 yards out. I could see it was a common and a big one. I knew it was one of three fish, all monsters, and I was then very nervous as the fish wallowed towards me.

I was very cautious not to lose this monster fish, and finally it came into reach and I netted it. As I looked upon my prize, I couldn't believe the size of it. I checked both sides of the fish and they were clean, meaning one thing: it was the Big Common, the biggest fish in the lake, a 50-plus fish. I couldn't believe it! The first thing I did was Facetime my 11-year-old son, who didn't believe me till I showed him my prize. She went a massive 51lb 12oz and a new lake record. I was properly shaking holding such an amazing fish.

It was soon teatime, so I ate my grub and decided a recast was in order. I thought I'd fish two rods over the left spot. I put the left hand rod around 10/15ft over to the left, and I put it on my pod for the line to fully sink, then recast the middle rod to the tall birch tree and again rested it on the pod. As I did that, the left rod ripped off, and this fish was so powerful, it ran me ragged. I've never had a fish run so powerfully! After what felt like a lifetime, it was finally ready to be netted, and again it looked massive. Once on the mat, I unwrapped it and instantly knew it was a fish called Scar, which had done 38/39lb before. Well, this time it tipped the scales at 40lb 2oz, a new PB mirror.

Going in to my last night, I decided to put all of my remaining boilies out – 2.5kg over my now two spots. It was a quiet night again, which isn't unusual on this lake. As I was having my

THE OLD SCHOOL ESSENCE

QUALITY CARP ANGLING BAIT

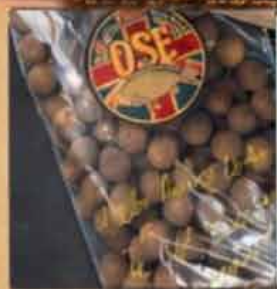


HOOK BAIT RANGE

Hand rolled hook baits & specials!

Hook Bait Range: Available in 12mm, 16mm and 18mm, pop-ups, hard hookers, and wafers, along with a limited number of cork ball pop-ups, primarily rolled in 12mm and 15mm.

- The Old School Essence
- The Wasp Grub
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- The Old School Essence Bait Spray
- Wasp Grubb Bait Spray
- Nouvelle Fizz Bait Spray
- The Old English Toffee Bait Spray
- Whiskey, Maple & Cream Bait Spray
- Ester Tutti Bait Spray

Celebrate the nostalgia of the British carp scene with us!

Further information visit www.theoldschoolessence.com

OLD SCHOOL ESSENCE FLAGSHIP HNV FREEZER BAIT

The flagship bait is crafted around a blend of premium fish meals, spices, feed stimulants, milk proteins, quality liquid hydrolysates, and essential oils. Inspired by the legendary Rod Hutchinson, it features a hint of shellfish sense appeal, rounded off with a touch of plum. Its deep red fishmeal colour not only helps deter birdlife but also offers a subtle approach for baiting campaigns.

One of those baits that takes you back to the 80's, 90's and early 00's, when tamagotchis were a thing and Oasis were in their prime!

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morning coffee, pondering how I was ever going to beat this, my right hand rod went off with a screaming run. When I picked the rod up, it kept taking line. I tightened the clutch, but it still managed to get around the point of the island. I put a lot of side strain on it, and I could feel the line on the reeds, grating, as it does, then ping! I thought it had come off, but it was the line coming off the last of the reeds, and I was back in touch with the fish. It felt so strong, making long, driving runs. After a good ten minutes' battling, it was finally in the net, a lovely looking 22lb linear, which fell for a pink Trent Baits Freshwater Shrimp wafter on an Ibhooks Wide Gape 4.

That was the last of the action – a very enjoyable 48 hours at Birch Lake. I can't wait to go back again and get some more of these stunning fish.





BIRTHDAY COMMON

It was the weekend before my birthday, and driving to the lake straight from work didn't leave me much time to find any signs of fish before dark. I knew that a cold northerly was due so jumped into a swim that was on the back of it, knowing I had a chance when it shifted around. Having quickly found two spots that I had fished before, I Spombed out about 50 freebies tight over each then cast out two Ronnies baited with 15mm Balistic B pop-ups.

Nothing happened overnight, but in the morning, there were a few shows either side of me, so it looked encouraging. Mid afternoon, I reeled in, replaced the baits and recast back into place but decided on no more freebies, as I was confident there were plenty still out there.

At about 11.30pm, I was woken by a slow take on my right hand rod, and the fish found some weed, which gave me time

to put my waders on. I got down into the water then started working the fish back towards the waiting net, but then it woke up, stripping 25 yards of line from my reel in short order. Twice we went through the same pattern until it eventually rolled over the net cord. After unhooking it in the water, I went to lift the net, and knew I was a lump. On the scales it went just past the coveted mark and settled on 40lb 4oz. After a few photos, it slowly drifted back to the depths, and I put the kettle on for a most welcome brew. No other action came my way, so I packed all my gear into the car, and for once I had a pleasant drive home.

The following week I was going to have a social with my good friend Trevor to celebrate my 40lb 4oz and my birthday. To give us a good chance of catching, I arrived at first light to look for any signs of fish. However, after three hours' walking around and the odd cup of tea, nothing showed itself. I had been told that nothing had been caught since the previous weekend. Deciding on a peg that had previous form and was right next to another productive swim, I set up my bivvy and went back to my car for the rest of the gear where I met Trevor parking his van.

Having loaded up our barrows, we walked round to our swims, but in the time I had taken to load my gear, the wind had shifted and was blowing into us, which Trevor jokingly grumbled about while setting up. Being the start of November, we could now use three rods, so after setting them up, I started casting around with a 4.5 oz lead, looking for any features. It was mostly hard silt, but in one area, I found some soft silt in an area of new weed growth so clipped up and cast a few more times just to be sure.



Spots decided upon, I cast my Ronnie rigs out, baited with 15mm Balistic B pop-ups that are not overly buoyant so require no anchor weight to pin them down. I then put a couple of Spombs over each area. Being the first to start fishing, I put the kettle on and made a couple of cups of tea and sat down with Trevor for a warming drink.

Just as I was draining the last of my mug, I heard my drag singing. Rushing to my rod, I could see the end buckled round as the fish took line. Lifting into it, I tightened the drag, felt some light knocking and commented that it felt like a tench. I couldn't find any weed with my marker, but the fish found

it easily enough, luckily pulling through with little trouble. It surfaced 20 yards out, so it was safe to say it was a carp and not a tench. There were two balls of weed coming in, one on the lead and one on the fish, so I walked backwards, maintaining pressure to keep the momentum, which worked, as the two balls of weed went into the net. Trevor, who was up to his waist in the water clearing the weed out of the net, stopped, looked at me and said, "It's a 40!" In disbelief, I sorted out the scales and brand new Cabrio Monster Unhooking Mat while he unhooked it. The scales settled on 41lb 12oz.

After a few photos, the fish was returned, and it glided back into the depths. The rest of the session was uneventful, but in 30 years of carp fishing, it's the first time I've been out on the bank for my birthday, so it was a very special moment indeed.



DOMAINE de PUYREGONDE

Joëlle and Anthony are delighted to welcome you to their 3 lakes.



South Lake

The 6,5 acres

Lakeside cottage

Over 180 carp averaging 45lb

60 carp over 45lb.

Lake records 70lb common, 68lb mirror and 60lb grass carp,

up to four anglers with exclusive use of the entire lake.

We provide unhooking equipment (mats, slings, landing nets).

North Lake

2 acres

85 carp, averaging 30lb

Lake record 55lb.

Only one swim is available on this lake, accommodating 1 or 2 anglers.

The Rosiers Lodge can be rented in conjunction with the North Lake for added comfort.

We provide unhooking equipment (mats, slings, landing nets).

Three accommodations are therefore available:

- Fisherman's lodge with south lake

- Rosiers lodge with north lake

- Magnolias lodge (2 people) or Rosiers lodge (4 people) with the carpodrome

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MANOR FARM MONSTER

I just got back from a session on Linear Fisheries' Manor Farm. The lake was fishing very slow with lots of long-session anglers failing to get a bite on a very busy lake. I managed to tuck into a peg that was on the back of a northwesterly wind. I had a feeling there would be fish in the area due to the angling pressure in the hot pegs, so I went about quietly trying to find



a spot with minimal casts. It quickly became clear that this wouldn't be the case, as the lake was extremely weedy.

Eventually I managed to find a clear spot at range, no bigger than a bivvy, which felt as though it was covered by a thick layer of silt. Three rods went onto the area armed with Red Amo pop-ups tipped with fake corn. I began with a light baiting approach, as I knew the lake was fishing slow, so I just put out eight spombs of Red Amo 10mm boilies mixed 50/50 with Complex-T, corn and Frenzied Hemp.

The night went by uneventfully, and as I watched the other anglers on the lake, I noticed that very little bait was going in at all. After watching the fish performing a dolphin show out

in the middle of the lake all morning, I knew they would have to feed soon, so it was time to make a statement over my spot and give them a reason to get their heads down.

I let the morning feeding spell fully fizzle out before spodding around 8kg of the mix over the spot with the addition of a whole bottle of Sweet Tiger Nut liquid food to really work the water column and infuse the silt with food signals around my rigs. Unsurprisingly, another day and night went by without any indication on the rods.

The next morning, my anticipation levels were brewing. As I gazed out to the area, I had half the birdlife in the Cotswolds circling my spot, tench fizzing and bobbins dancing from liners.



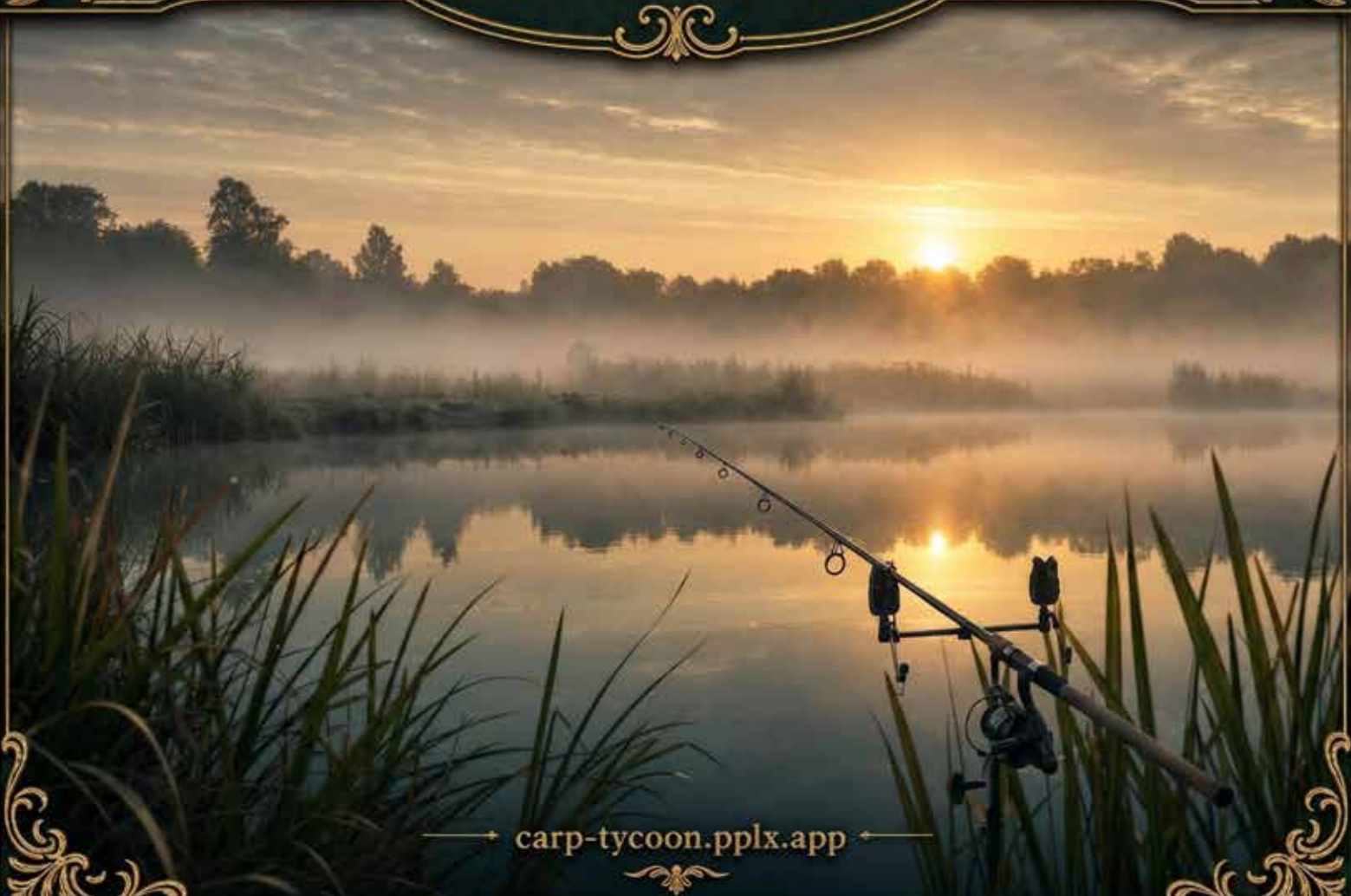
JAMES BUCKLER

I knew that this commotion could well switch the carp on, and no less than an hour passed by before the bobbin pulled up on my middle rod, sat there for a little while, and then ripped off, sending my tightly set clutch into meltdown. A 20lb stockie graced my net after a fairly savage battle, and I knew this was only going to be the beginning. With two nights to go and ten kilos of bait left in the buckets, it was a case of keeping the bait going in. I ended the session on seven bites, six fish landed, a brace of 30s and all topped off by one of the A-team, a fish called Two Tone at 36lb – a birthday session to remember.



CARP TYCOON

— Carp Fishery Tycoon —



→ carp-tycoon.pplx.app ←

Carp Tycoon is a free-to-play browser-based carp fishing tycoon game built by Matthew Emerson — a UK carp angler turned solo developer.

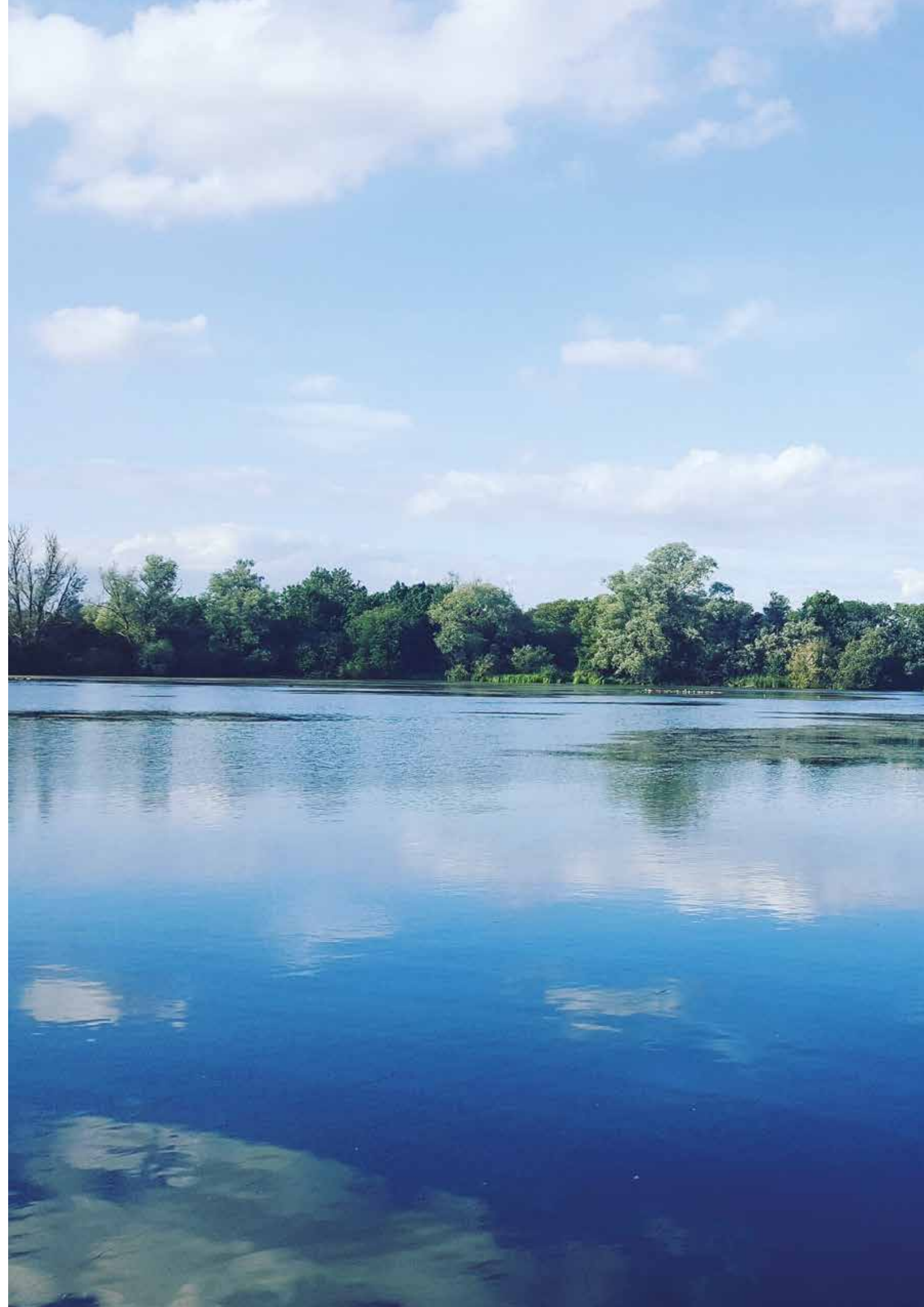
Start with Hollow Pit, a neglected 3-acre gravel pit, and grow your fishery across five tiers all the way to syndicate-level estate waters. Real angling mechanics — water chemistry, biomass capacity, swim placement, baiting strategy, weather, seasons. No gimmicks, no fluff.

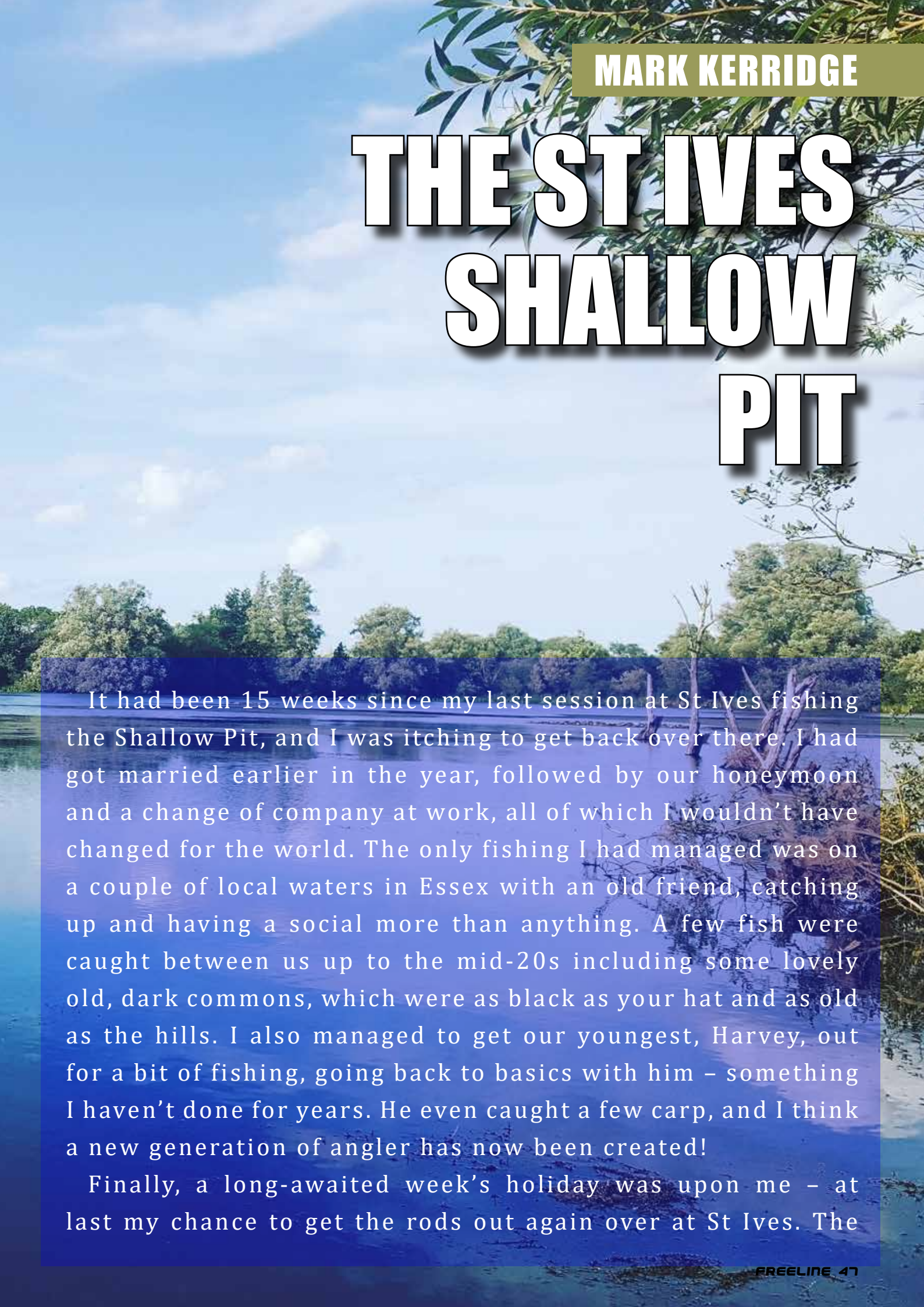
The base game is free. Optional £3.99 lake packs unlock 60+ real and inspired UK and European waters. Optional Owner-Support tiers help fund the next pack.

No signup. No install. Plays on desktop, iPad, and iPhone — add to your home screen for a full-app experience. Built by an angler, for anglers.

FOR MORE DETAILS SEE US ON FACEBOOK OR VISIT

WWW.CARP-TYCOON.PPLX.APP





MARK KERRIDGE

THE ST IVES SHALLOW PIT

It had been 15 weeks since my last session at St Ives fishing the Shallow Pit, and I was itching to get back over there. I had got married earlier in the year, followed by our honeymoon and a change of company at work, all of which I wouldn't have changed for the world. The only fishing I had managed was on a couple of local waters in Essex with an old friend, catching up and having a social more than anything. A few fish were caught between us up to the mid-20s including some lovely old, dark commons, which were as black as your hat and as old as the hills. I also managed to get our youngest, Harvey, out for a bit of fishing, going back to basics with him – something I haven't done for years. He even caught a few carp, and I think a new generation of angler has now been created!

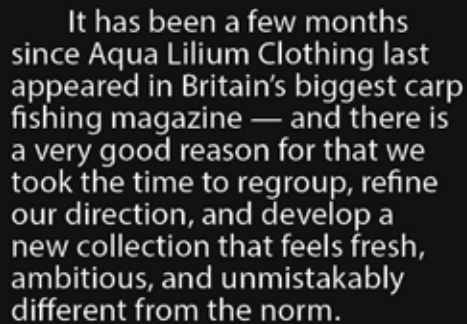
Finally, a long-awaited week's holiday was upon me – at last my chance to get the rods out again over at St Ives. The

weeks leading up to my planned trip weren't the most ideal conditions with baking hot days and sky high air pressures, something I was hoping would change in my favour. As if by luck, the weatherman was telling me all the right things: cloudy, overcast and heavy rain showers. Not what the kids want to hear on their school holidays, but for we carp anglers, it doesn't get much better. Sunday morning was soon upon me, and the hour and forty-five-minute drive was taken up with me talking about which fish were due out. My wife Louise, who had decided to join me on my trip, must have felt every one of the 100 miles to the lake!! Colin, Laney's, BJ, Sponge Bob, the Parrot... you name them, and I was talking about them. Nearly all of the A-Team fish were due, and with the predicted weather forecast, I couldn't help but think that this could be my chance to bag another of the big girls.

At last we had arrived at the Shallow Pit and drove through the gate and along the track, stopping where Mark had been fishing for the weekend. A brief chat with Mark, and I was to discover that there were only four people currently on the lake with two of them leaving very soon. What a result! The lake was almost all mine for the picking! Lou and I started walking around swim by swim, looking for any signs of a carp, but all that could be seen were coots and weed – more weed than you know what to do with – top to bottom and over every inch of water. The fish in Shallow are known for having their own set of rules; you can have perfect carp conditions, which on most lakes you would bet your house on where you would find the fish, but not here. Countless times I have found them where you would least expect.



NEW 2026 COLLECTION



This process has taken time, but for us it was important to get it right. If you have been following our social media platforms, you will have seen a wide range of concepts, artwork, and designs being shared. We wanted to bring those ideas directly to you, our customers and supporters, so we could understand which designs connected most strongly. After all, Aqua Lilium would be nothing without the people who support the brand, and we genuinely appreciate every comment, message, and piece of feedback you have given us.

That feedback has helped shape a collection where the back designs are more detailed and more complex than ever before. We are pushing ourselves to produce artwork that stands apart within the carp fishing industry, and Mark Quinn's latest work carries an incredible level of depth and detail. At one stage, we were not even sure whether it would be possible to print — but at Aqua Lilium Clothing, we have never been afraid of a challenge.

With a new approach, a change in technique, and plenty of determination, we are proud to say that the next chapter is nearly here. Watch this space — these new designs are on another level.

Under the Stars is the perfect place to begin. Believe it or not, this design started life as a

real photograph before being carefully digitised to create a fresh, distinctive finish. It is also available as a framed print, making it a striking piece of artwork that would look exceptional on any wall.

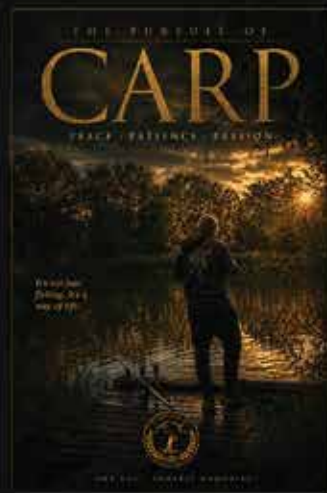
The Boy in the Moon follows with a clean, imaginative design inspired by the magic of classic cinema-style artwork, reworked with Mark's own fishing twist. It captures a young boy's imagination and his dream of being out by the water, rod in hand, lost in the moment.

Carp Rig Blueprint brings a completely different feel to the range, featuring a gold rig design set against a high-quality olive green T-shirt. Over the next 12 months, a selection of different rigs will be released for you to collect, turning this design into the start of a very special series.

We are also proud to announce that Aqua Liliu Clothing is now celebrating its fifth year. To mark the occasion, we have created a special fifth anniversary design called Dusk 'til Dawn, complete with a limited-edition embroidered logo on the front of the T-shirt.

The collection continues with the Dragonfly Comic Strip Edition, a bold and playful design that shows us having a little fun. Featuring a dragonfly riding a spomb, it brings character, humour, and originality to the range.

At Aqua Liliu, we always try to cater for everyone, which brings us to Clockwork — a beautifully detailed design with real depth. It is the kind of artwork you can look at again and again, discovering something new each time.



Beyond our own releases, we also continue to work on collaborations with tackle shops, including Essex County Angling. If you are interested in collaborating with one of the most distinctive clothing brands in the business, contact us at aqualiliumclothing@hotmail.com. Together, we can create a unique design that helps your business stand out from the crowd in an industry where many simply follow each other.

To cap things off, we are introducing the Bed chair Buddy — a product unique to the Aqua Lilium brand. Designed for both you and your dog, Buddy is a

bed chair cover built for anglers who are lucky enough to take their four-legged companion fishing with them. It features a kangaroo-style pocket that can be accessed from any side, and the pocket can also be unpopped and washed for added practicality.

These are exciting times for Aqua Lilium Clothing. The collection is growing, the ideas are getting bolder, and even the big brands are beginning to watch what we are doing. We must be doing something right — and the truth is, we are only just getting started.



Website: www.aqualiliumclothing.com

Email: aqualiliumclothing@hotmail.com

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You can also reach us through or Facebook or instagram pages



Aqua Liliu Clothing

CATCH REPORT



Aqua Liliu Clothing boss Mark hasn't had much time out on the bank this year, with work and the ever-expanding fishing brand keeping him busier than ever. However, he recently managed to squeeze in a 24-hour session with his daughter, Lily — and it turned into one to remember.

The action started within just 30 minutes of casting out and continued throughout the day, with the pair struggling to keep the rods in the water. Mark explained that, while attending the Doncaster Carp Show, he got talking to Richard from Nutrabaits and the decision to join the team was made very quickly.

"It was a no-brainer for us, to be honest," said Mark. "Like I've always said, the proof is in the pudding."



Mark and Lily used a mixture of 15mm Big Fish Mix and 15mm Energise, topped with a balanced wafter. The approach proved devastating, producing 17 takes and 14 landed fish. The biggest of the session was



a stunning 36lb 14oz mirror carp.

Not to be beaten, Lily also got in on the action, weighing in with a beautiful ghost carp of her own — rounding off a memorable session for the pair.

The slow walk round continued until we were almost at a swim known as the Hole in the Bush, a small swim where only two rods can be used and one of the closest to the out of bounds area. As we got closer, you could see a weigh sling, still dripping, hanging from a branch along with a rather wet landing net. Looking like a fish had recently been released back into its watery home, my suspicions were confirmed. Matt was there in the swim, no rods left in the water but with a rather large smile on his face, and rightfully so, as he had not long returned Colin at over 51lb! I wasn't surprised he was



smiling! Well, Colin might be off of the list of potential fish to catch but with all the others due out, things were looking rather good for me.

There were still fish in Matt's swim and out in the out of bounds section, so I knew I had to get as close to the area as I could. After congratulating Matt and listening to the story that led to the capture, we made our way down the track to find the swim that would offer me the best opportunity to get as close to the fish as possible. I basically had two to choose from until Chris announced that he was leaving now that Colin had been out. Chris was in a swim known as the Copse, one that controls a large amount of water and also puts you very close to one of the gaps to the out of bounds. This swim has good form for producing fish, so it seemed crazy not to go in there. I had five nights, so even if I did a night or two in there, I had plenty of time for a move if I needed to.

I knew of two spots that should be clear enough for a bait, so after a quick check in my book to see how many wraps, I was out in the lake having a lead around. Sure enough I was right, and before long, I had two nice clean spots marked up ready for a rig. A third spot was eventually found after searching with all that weed in front of me. No rush, I thought... I have five nights in front of me. Usually with the spots feeling as clear as they did, I would have gone for a balanced bait fished helicopter style but not this time. I wanted to go against what the majority were doing and make my rig different. I opted to fish small solid PVA bags with no boilies as hook baits. Two rods would be tiger nuts, but the third I fancied something different, something hopefully the fish hadn't been hooked on for a while. I was going to be fishing over a bed of particle

and Cell, so something within the particle was going to be my choice of bait. I opted for half a peanut popped up ever so slightly so that when the PVA bag melted, the half peanut would be the first thing in the carp's mouth, well that was the plan anyway.

With bags tied and traps set, it was time to sit back and admire my view for the next few days, looking out over the water, scanning for some little signs of these elusive fish. As evening fell and the light was fading, the odd little sign of a carp would grab your attention. Every now and then, one would roll in the out of bounds, knowing that they were in an untouchable area of the lake. All one had to do was slip up and

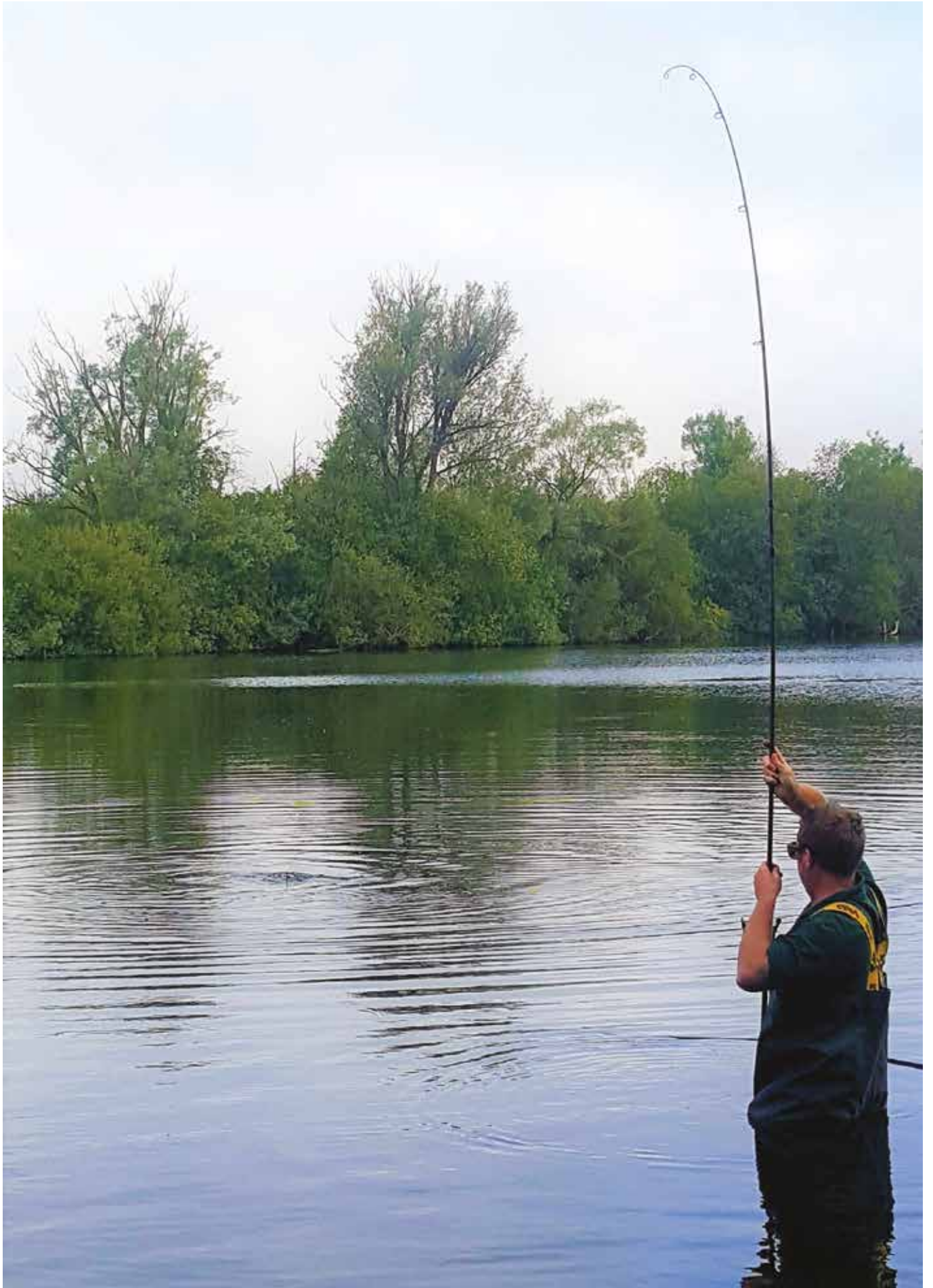


drift out of the out of bounds, and it would come across my baited area.

Morning came with no activity, not that I was expecting anything so soon; I was there for the long haul. I sat back out on a bucket next to my rods, ready for first light hoping to see where the fish would be showing themselves. With no real giveaway signs of activity, I decided that I would keep the rods out until midday and then go for a wander; after all, it was mid-morning when Colin had been out yesterday. After countless cups of tea whilst watching the water, I looked over at my braided mainline hanging lifelessly off of the end of my rods, as slack as can be, when, all of a sudden, it started cutting up over the weed and getting tighter and tighter.

The alarm had barely had a chance to let out a sound, and I was on the rod. With the weed as thick as it is, I was desperate to keep as much control as I could, especially as the boat was nowhere near me. The angry fish kited right really quickly, and before I could do anything about it, my right hand rod had been crossed. Great – an irate carp in a weed-choked lake was now caught in my other line! I let the bale arm off of the other rod and waded out into the lake so that I could keep control of what was attached.

After what seemed like a lifetime, what was attached to my hook started to tire and slowly edge closer to my net. Just inches away, it all went solid due to my other line being tangled. I was at the limit of my chesties, knowing one more step would give me a good soaking. All I could see was half a peanut nailed in the bottom lip of this huge mouth. Instantly I knew which fish it was, as there is only one fish with a mouth big enough to suck up boilies the size of apples – BJ! I had BJ,



one of the Shallow pit A-Team hanging from my tangled line at stalemate! I wished I hadn't realised what I was attached to, as the thought of losing one of the 40s wasn't sitting very well in my head. With no real choice other than try and pull that little bit harder, I compressed my rod even further, feeling the grating of lines as the fish inched towards me just enough to get the net around it. I have never been so relieved in all my life! I grabbed hold of the tangled mess of braid and dragged it towards me enough so that I could unhook the fish in the net and get it back to the bank to sulk while I sorted out tangled lines.

With rods all sorted out and the fish slid into the retaining sling, it was time to truly admire my capture. Up onto the scales,



and they spun round and settled at 39lb exactly, not the 40lb-plus I was expecting, but after spawning, she was slightly down in weight. At the end of the day, it's just a number, as the weight of the fish doesn't take anything away from its capture. It's still the same fish regardless of its weight – not just any fish though... another of the big girls for me! Photos were taken, and my moments holding her were captured. The smile on my face said it all. I was more than happy with my morning's work, and why wouldn't I be, as I had just got a new PB?

The rest of the trip went past with no more captures, but I wouldn't have changed it. I was more than happy with my result, and to be able to share the moment with Louise was a bonus too.





MEMORIES

After hooking and landing my last fish from the small bay, I returned the following week to somewhat different conditions. Huge southwesterly winds were battering into the bay, and the air pressure was on a constant drop for the next couple of evenings. I fancied my chances again in this swim, as the conditions could not have been better; the perfect big pit storm was brewing up, and I was right in the thick of it. Although extremely windy, the first night drew a blank. My brolly was ripped from the pegs, the ribs had been shattered, and I'd had a sleepless night, but I returned keen as mustard after work the following evening.

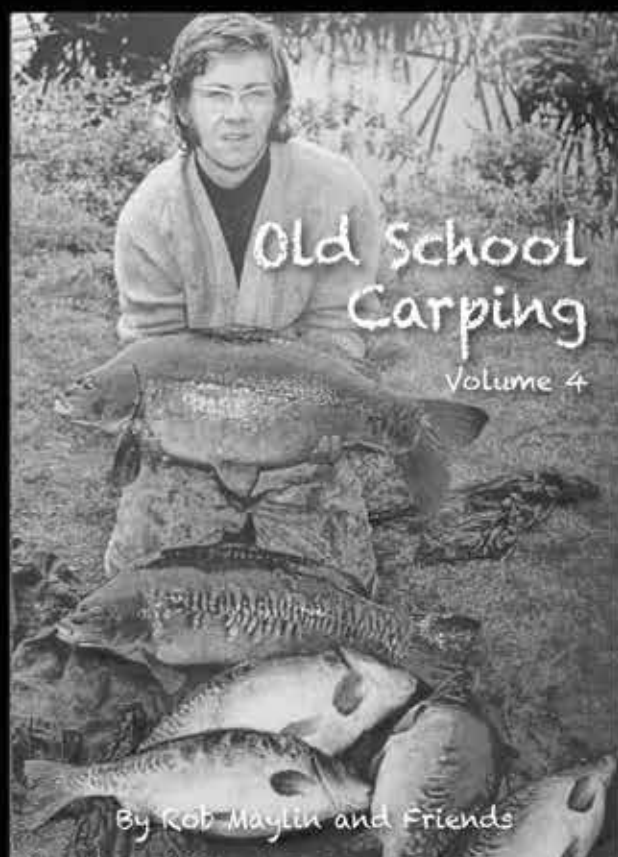
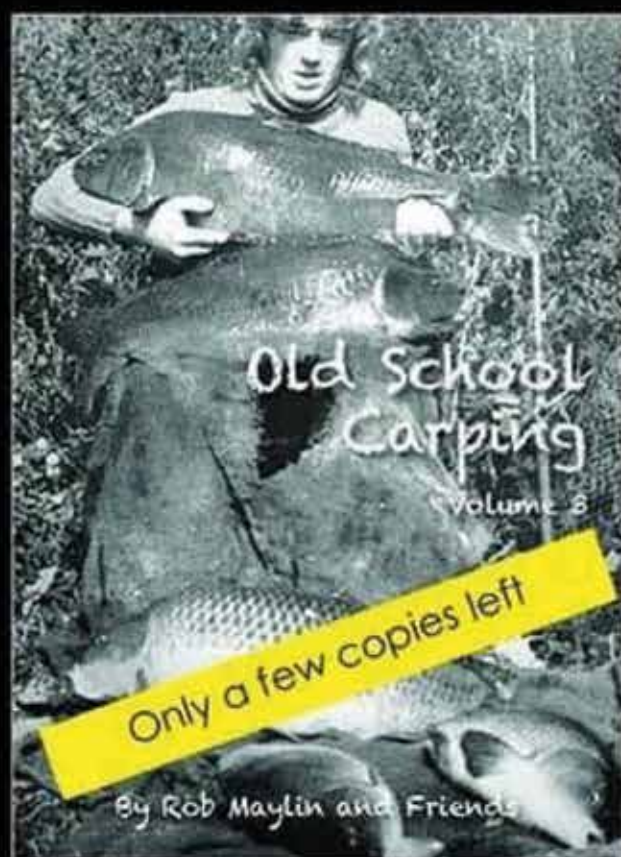
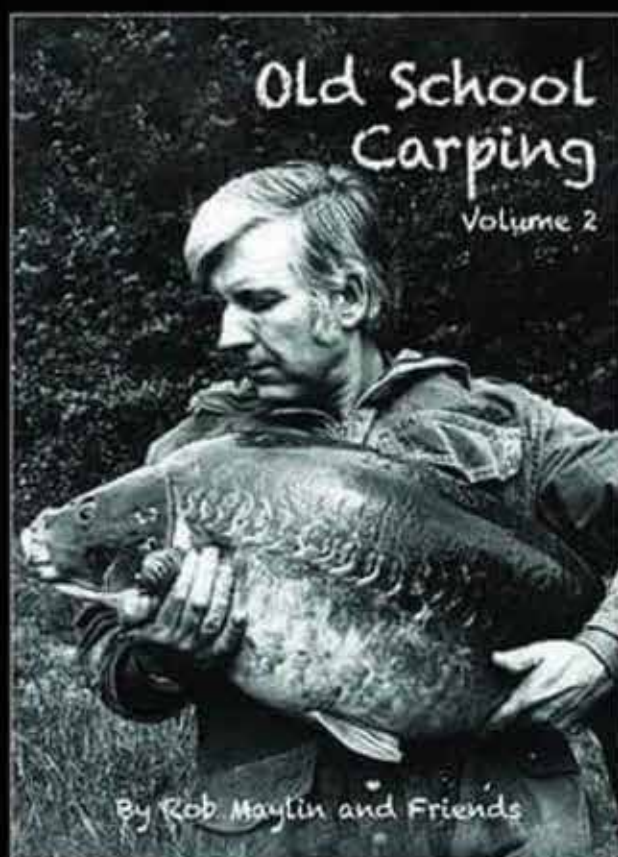
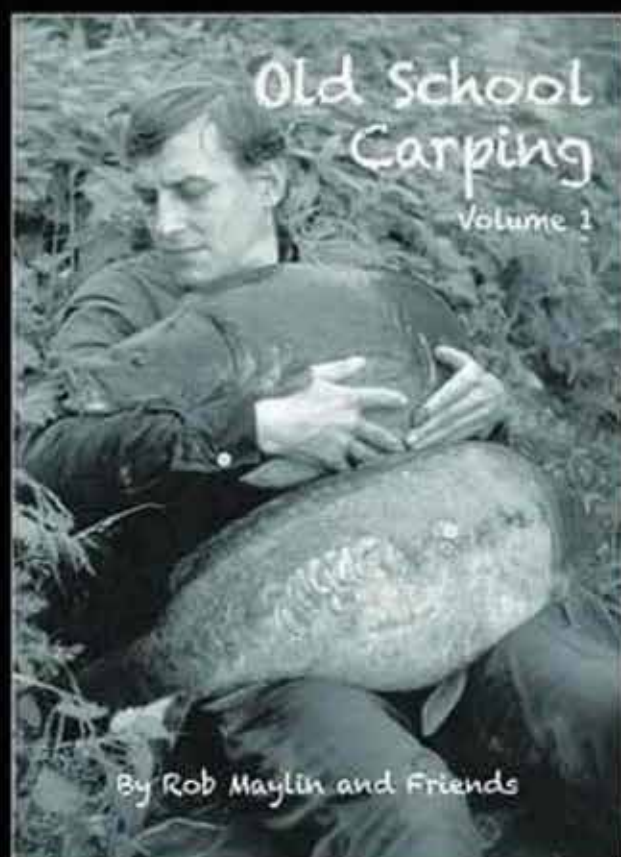
Dog leads, bags and anything else I had in my van was chucked on the barrow to help pin the brolly back down. I even took the lump hammer to smash the pegs in. The winds grew stronger than the night before, even ripping the roots

of the willows from the gravel margins, but the brolly was just about withstanding the battering. At around midnight and lowest point of pressure for the evening, I could just about make out the sound of the alarm giving out a few beeps followed by the clutch, and again my middle rod was away.

Stood up to my waist in the waves, wind and rain, I managed to slow the beast on the end of line and turn her away from the danger of snags and head first into the net. Parting the net in the howling winds, there lay a perfect fat dumpy mirror, a dark chestnut colour with distinctive small scales along her back. It was a recapture of the mirror I'd had in late spring. I called friend over to witness and weigh her before slipping her back.



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BE LUCKY

For quite a few years now, I've known about the Bawburgh complex and what fish it holds. It's a large complex with three main lakes: Bawburgh at 17-ish acres, Colney at 24-ish acres and Lodge, which is roughly 29 acres. All the lakes are low stocked and aren't really known. At a guess Lodge has roughly 120 carp, Colney 80-ish and Bawburgh really is unknown. Being relatively low stocked is what attracted me to the complex. I put it off for years, as other tickets kept coming up, which I had my name down for. In 2017, I had finally finished on the other waters, and I gained a ticket for 2017 season.

I started off on Colney, which in my opinion held the nicest fish on the complex, most of which were really scaly ones. It also holds some stunning commons. It wasn't until May that I had my first bite, and what a fish it turned out to be, a stunning 25lb mirror with an unusual scale pattern. May turned out to be very kind to me in the end with six fish gracing my net including a brace of 30s, one being a common and the other a mirror, which can only be described as mint. The mirror was one called Drop Scale Linear. It was one of my targets, and with it being 32lb 14oz, I was more than happy. Rig-wise, I went straight in with Ronnie rigs with small 12mm Sticky Baits pineapple pop-ups and spread a good helping of 16mm Krill over the top.





In the back of my head was a fish called Three Scale, which lives in Lodge. It's a very large carp that goes between 41lb and 44lb. It's a real character and has loads of battle scars down its flanks. It really was a carp that got the juices flowing. Colney switched off in June, and I decided to move over to Lodge to see if I could tempt a couple from there. I fished it from the middle of June until the end of September. The fishing was unbelievable, and I totaled 19 fish up to just over 26. Some people can go a whole season if not more without a fish on there, so to have that amount was a massive achievement. All the time I fished on there though, I never felt like coming close to catching the big'un, as generally it gets caught from the margins, and all my captures came from open water.

The temptation to catch carp was too much, and after finding



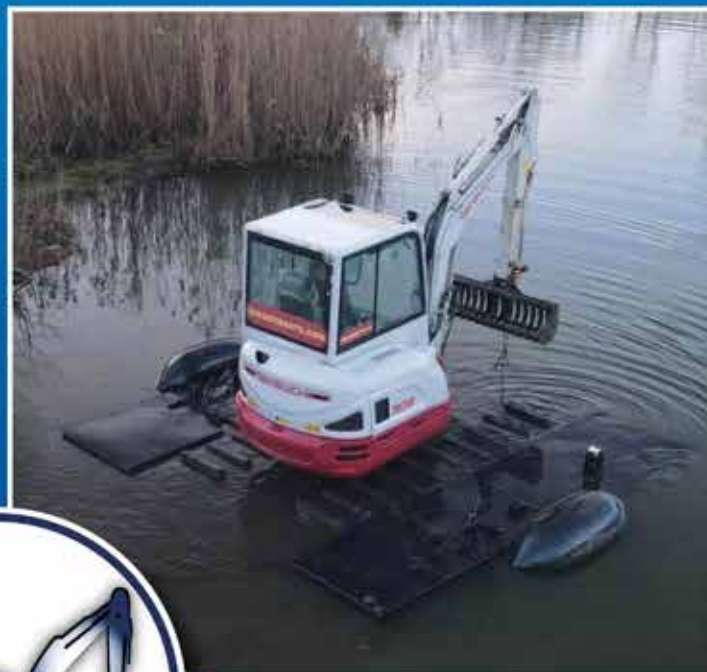
something that works, I stuck with it and reaped the rewards. I went back over to Colney for the autumn but never felt close to anything, and the first year at Bawburgh came to a close. The winter is a waste of time, I learned, after speaking with friends who've fished it for quite a few years. I moved house in November, so the winter for me was pretty much a write-off. I did however manage a few nights on some day ticket lakes, but every time I turned up, the weather seemed against me, so I didn't really fish from January until March.

Bawburgh has a two-week close in March, and the day it reopened couldn't come quickly enough for me. All the excitement and anticipation soon wore off when it came to May, and I was yet to put a fish on the bank. This year was a

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lot busier than the previous one with an abundance of tench anglers and carp anglers alike. I decided to fish elsewhere for a couple of weeks and had some great fishing, landing 21 carp up to 34lb 14oz. The icing on the cake was one I wanted, a big-scaled mirror that went 32lb 12oz. I was over the moon with the results, but creeping into the back of my mind was Bawburgh, and it wasn't long before I was back. I booked a week off work at the beginning of June and decided to give Colney one last go before moving over to Lodge for the summer once again. The week was slow, and I only managed two carp, but one was a common just over 30, so I was properly made up with that. I did also land a huge male tench of 11lb 10oz, which I'm told is one of the biggest in the country, and I certainly wasn't going to turn my nose up at it.





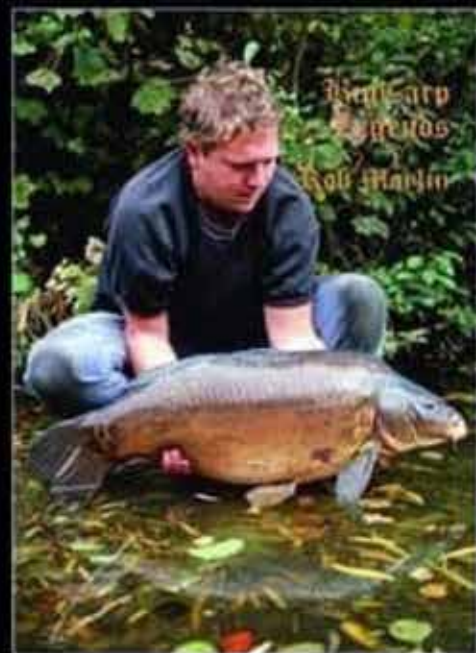
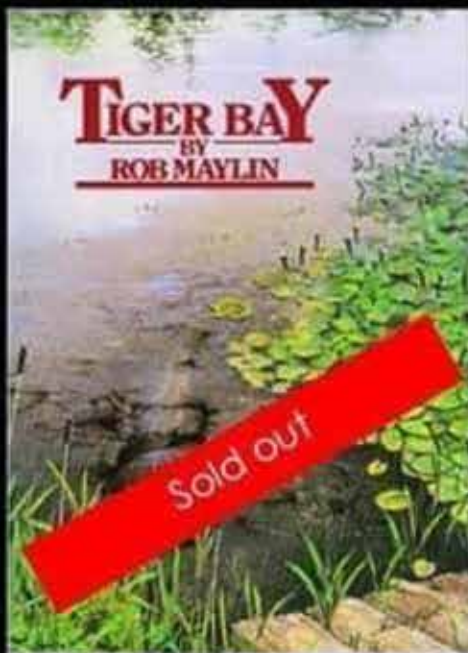
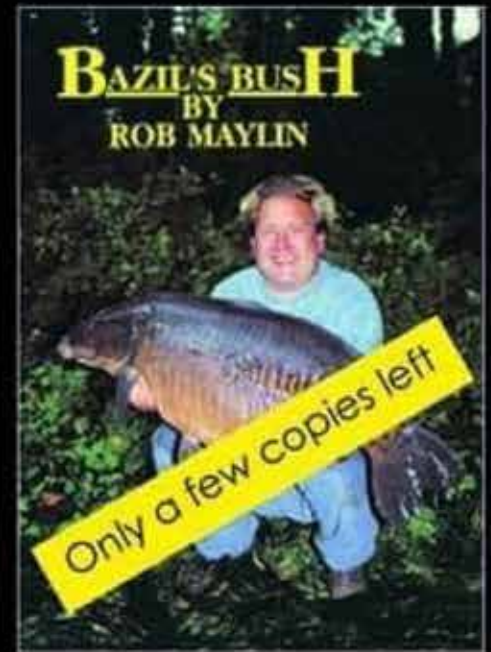
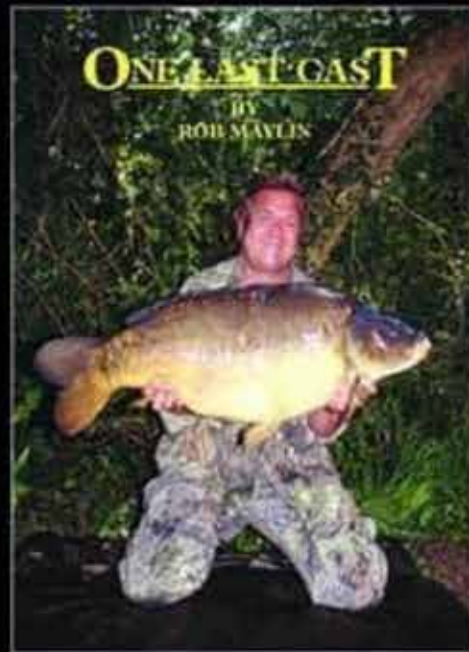
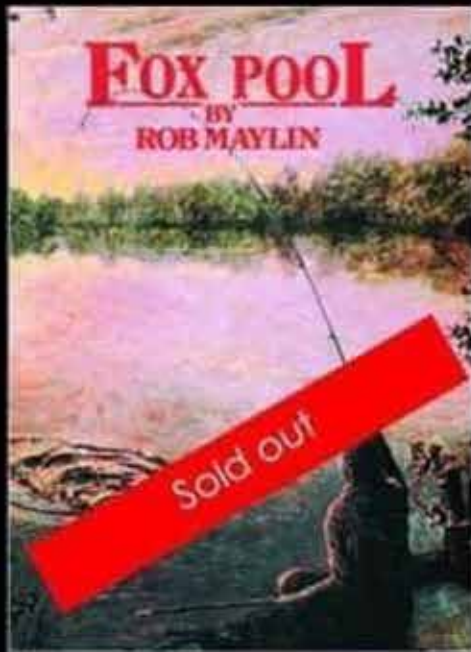
After that session, I decided to concentrate on Lodge once again, but this time I was going to set my sights solely on catching the big'un. Every week I fished just the margins in the hope of targeting that one alone. Everything didn't go to plan, and after a few blanks, I decided to fish open water again. I caught three fish up to just over 28 but kept telling myself I wasn't going to catch it out there.

At the beginning of July, my mate Ben and I decided to have a social on Colney, but the night soon passed without a liner or any shows to go on. That morning we decided to reel in and go and try to find something to go on. After two laps of the lake, we didn't see a sausage so wandered over to Lodge for a look. The weather was glorious, and the temperature was in



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the upper 20s by 9am. Later that day, it was expected to be in the 30s with high pressure – not the greatest for fishing.

We walked into a swim known as Party Point, which has a massive plateau in front of it, and we couldn't believe our eyes when we saw a large group of carp patrolling around it. After half an hour of watching, we'd seen enough and ran back to Colney to quickly pack up and move. In no time, we had packed down and got round there, and the fish were still there but had been joined by many more. We were planning on doubling up in Party Point, but the thought of six rods in the area didn't feel right, and would surely have spooked what was already there. After a quick walk down the bank, I entered a swim called the Beach. I saw one straight away in front of me no more than a rod length out, and I had a quick look in the bay to my left and spotted another four or five carp, one much bigger than the rest that had to be the big'un.

I decided not to fish the day and just put the rods out before dark to try not to spook what was in the swim. All three went out first time, and I was mega confident of a bite. They were all put on Signature Squid pop-ups, as I know from past captures that the big'un loves a bit of pink. The night passed by, and other than a couple of liners, not much happened. It was so hot, and by 5am, the temp must have been in the low 20s. I was looking at the rods whilst lying on the bed, wishing for one of them to go.

Half an hour later, I had a slight drop back on the middle rod fished over to the far margin. On walking down to the rod, the hanger lifted and stayed at the top. I picked the rod up, only to be met with a solid resistance on the other end. The fight was nothing to talk about, and after the fish made just one

lunge, it popped up on the surface, and I instantly recognised it as the big'un. Without hesitation, I jumped straight in with the net and engulfed it at the first attempt. The emotion and ecstasy ran through my veins, and I let out a massive shout. Mates around the lake soon got on the phone asking what I had, and it was such a joy to tell them it was the big'un. They all reeled in and came round to admire the prize. On the scales it went 42lb cozy and looked prime in the morning sun. We took some picks of it in and out of the water before letting it swim away to make someone else's season!

The following week I decided to have a massive social with my mates Ben and Paul, and the Prosecco flowed better than normal celebrating the capture, and we also dined on some mighty fine steaks!



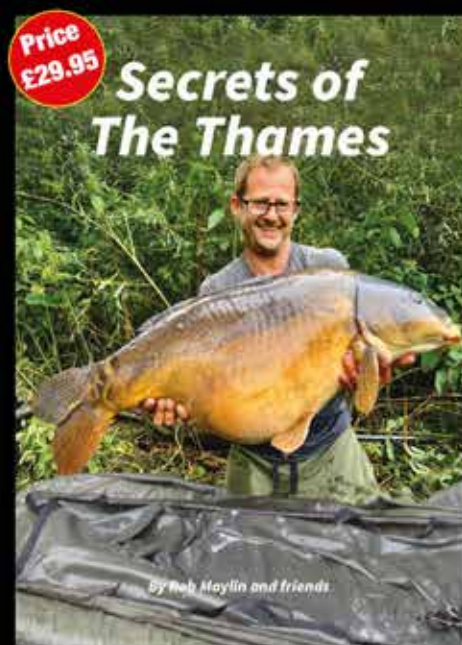
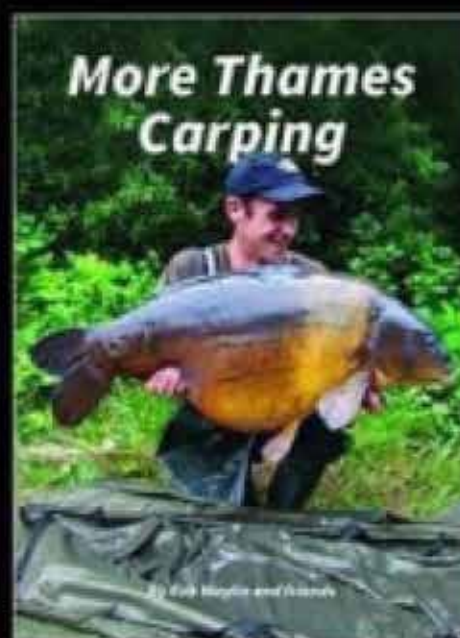
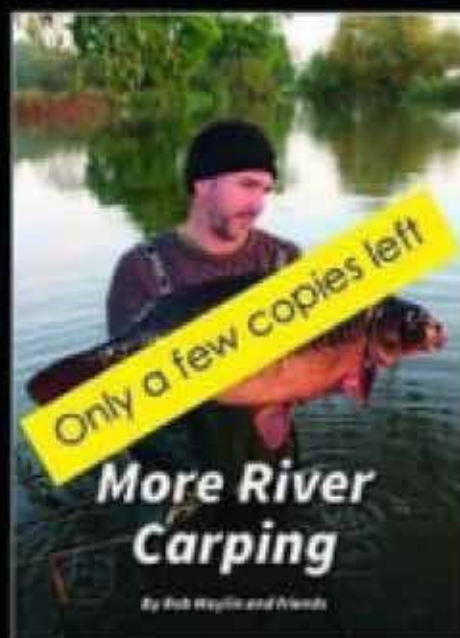
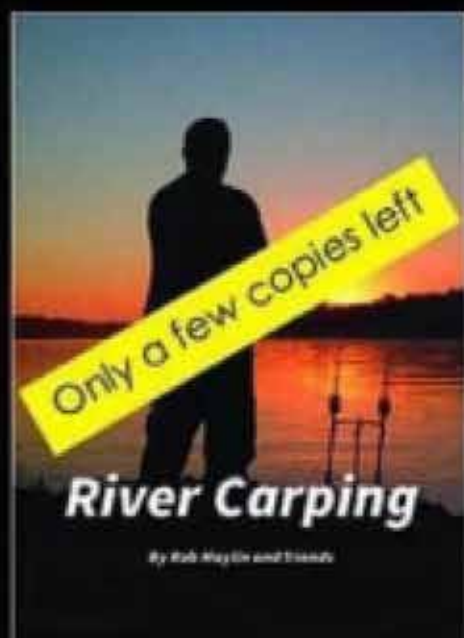
NATHAN HIGHLEY

Social fishing for me is a massive part of my life, and I'm very fortunate to have friends that were just as happy to see me with fish rather than themselves. I really hope my mate Ben catches it next year, as it would be a pleasure to photograph it for him as well. For now I'm moving over to my winter water where lurks one of the best commons I've ever seen, which was last out at 42 on the nose. Long may the BBQs roar and the drink flow. I can feel a mega social winter coming on, and Ben and I have already hit the ground running with plenty of fish up to 29lb 8oz so far, so fingers crossed for the big'un.



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