

# APRIL ISSUES OF **BIG CARP** AND **FREE LINE** MAGAZINES FREE HERE

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**The Winter Diary Part 3 by Mark and Emma Rose**  
**Grenville 60! by Roger Bacon**

**Burghfield Gold Lake by James Walford**

**Milton Magic by Oscar Thornton**

**Mystery and Adventure by Matt Blake**

**A Winter's Tale by Luke Phillips**

**Autumn Gold by Rick Golder**

**25 Years of Bait Part One by Steve Briggs**

**25 Years in the Pursuit of England's Biggest Carp Part One by Dave Lane**

**The Clear Pit by Rick Hurley**

**Buckland Lake Fishery**

**Wasing Way Part Three by Craig Runham**

**The Dinosaur by Colin O'Gorman Woolfall**

**Big Carp Promotions - Oak Lake Fisheries**

**A Storming Session by Barry Oconnor**

**Reuben Heaton by Andy Race**

**Making Your Own Luck by Chris Rampling**



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# BIG CARP

## Top Tens!

### Top 10 Day Ticket Carp Fisheries

1	COTTINGTON
2	LINEAR
3	CHRISTCHURCH
4	OAK LAKES FISHERY
5	BLUEBELL LAKES
6	CATCH 22
7	SANDHURST
8	FRYERNING
9	FARLOWS LAKE
10	COOLE ACRES

### Top 10 French Holiday Destinations

1	IKTUS
2	LAKE BOSSARD
3	ETANG 5
4	RIBIERE
5	ABBAY
6	LAC ROSE
7	LAKE HERITAGE
8	DREAM LAKES
9	FISHABIL
10	JONCHERY

### Top 10 Bait Companies

1	DYNAMITE
2	NUTRABAITS
3	STICKY
4	MAINLINE
6	TARGET
5	CC MOORE
7	NASH
8	URBAN
9	DAVE MALLIN
10	OUTLAW

### Top 10 Carp Tackle Companies (Terminal)

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

### Top 10 Carp Tackle Companies

1	DIAWA SPORTS
2	SHIMANO
3	REUBEN HEATON
4	FREE SPIRIT
5	FOX
6	TRAKKER
7	AQUA PRODUCTS
8	HARRISON
9	CENTURY
10	SONIK

### Top 10 Carp Shops

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

### Top 10 Iconic Carp Waters

1	YATELEY
2	SAVAY
3	REDMIRE
4	WRAYSBURY
5	FOX POOL
6	HORTON
7	CASSIEN
8	LINCH HILL
9	ROACH PIT
10	JOHNSONS RAILWAY



*As voted by Big Carp readers!*



**Big Carp Magazine!** *a history of excellence*

**BC**

ISSUE 321

# **SPRING EQUINOX ISSUE**

**Grenville 60  
Featuring  
Roger Bacon**



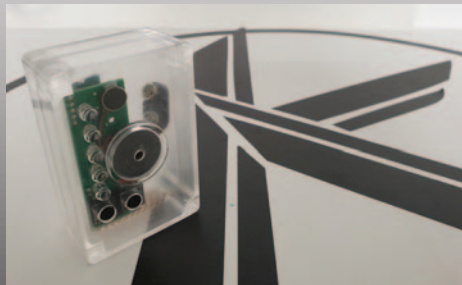
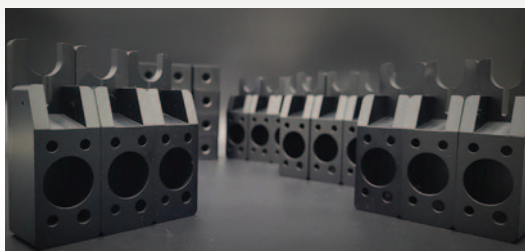
**The Winter Diary Part 3 – Mark and Emma Rose  
Burghfield Gold Lake – James Walford  
Mystery and Adventure – Matt Blake  
Milton Magic – Oscar Thornton  
A Winter's Tale – Luke Phillips**

**Still the proper carp angler's favourite read**





Custom modifications to existing set-ups  
as well as full commissioned project pieces,  
your true **KUDOS** tackle







## Spring Equinox Issue

I love it when the seasons change, don't you? Last week saw the Spring Equinox, that time of the year when the sun is directly above the equator, giving us equal amounts of day light and darkness. Not just here in the UK but across the globe, 12 hours of dark and 12 hours of light. At the moment, we are getting roughly 30 extra minutes of light in the evening per week, and with the clocks going forward at the end of March, it will now be light until 8pm. Carp love this time of the year and of course so do we. Where carp fisheries have been relatively quiet over the past month, that's all about to change. For the working, family carp angler, getting into those prime swims suddenly becomes more of a challenge.

This month, we have some articles to welcome you back on the bank, if you like many have been having a break through the recent cold snap. We also have a few last winter pieces reflecting some very successful carpers who took advantage of the quieter banks recently.

Let's start this month with our cover story featuring the King of Grenville, Roger Bacon. If you are a fan of social media, you will not have been able to miss the incredible results Roger has been having at the theatre of dreams. Topped just recently by this month's cover picture of an amazing looking sixty plus. Well done from all at Big Carp. Roger is a lovely guy, a great angler, who is very modest and has never let his fame go to his head.

Mark and Emma Rose return this month with the last part of their winter diary, some very nice carp caught once again by our regular husband and wife contributors. Don't worry, it's only the last part of the winter diary. Plenty more to come from them as we move through the year. The last winter story comes from Luke Phillips, a 'Winter's Tale' packed with monsters, just going to prove that if you make the effort, the winter has lots to offer.

Also this month, Matt Blake makes his Big Carp debut following a chat with the Rod Hutchinson team. Get ready for some Mystery and Adventure and one of the best-looking carp I have seen recently. Rounding off this packed equinox issue we have some Milton Magic from Oscar Thornton and some Burghfield Gold Lake action from Lake James Walford, two very well-know venues with an ever-improving stock of classic looking carp. Just what we need to get back on the bank at what is with a doubt the best time of the year.

Add to these loads of carpy humour, all the latest tackle reviews and carpy news and competitions and there's something for everyone again this month.

I hope you have been enjoying our two free monthly carp magazines, Big Carp and Free Line, see them both here – [www.freelinemagazine.com](http://www.freelinemagazine.com)

Now I need your help! Filling two magazines each month means I need twice as many articles, some people say they want to write, but never do. If you have had a successful start back, we would love to hear your tale. There are no picture or word limits. Simply Email your article to [info@bigcarpmagazine.co.uk](mailto:info@bigcarpmagazine.co.uk)

If you would like to join our FREE subscription list to be sent the mags as soon as they come out Email FREE SUBBY to [info@bigcarpmagazine.co.uk](mailto:info@bigcarpmagazine.co.uk)

WITHOUT YOUR INPUT THERE WILL BE NO MAGS!

Have a great spring friends, catch a monster and send us the story... be part of the UK's fantastic carp angling history!

*Rob Maylin*

PS We are doing some great ADVERTISING deals, drop me a line at [info@bigcarpmagazine.co.uk](mailto:info@bigcarpmagazine.co.uk) if you would like to see the deals and our media information pack.

## Exclusive

### 36 Grenville 60!

By Roger Bacon

### 42 Burghfield Gold Lake

By James Walford

### 46 The Winter Diary

Part 3 by Mark and Emma Rose

### 64 Milton Magic

By Oscar Thornton

### 68 Mystery and Adventure

By Matt Blake

### 72 A Winter's Tale

By Luke Phillips

## Big Carp Promotions

### 45 Oak Lake Fishery



# Contents



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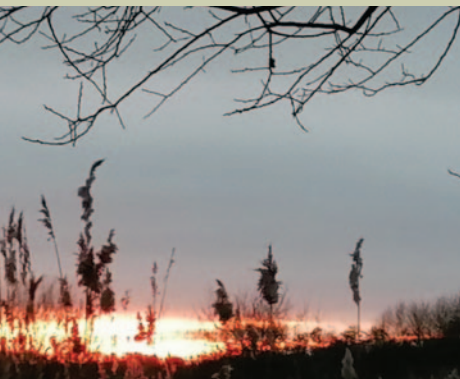
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May 2023

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**Front Cover**  
Roger Bacon with the Grenville 60.



## News & Reviews

6 **Shockleader**  
What's happening in the carp scene

30 **Tac-Tec**  
Latest product reviews

- Hotspot Design
- HayMax
- Klean Kanteen



## Advertising Index

Kudos Tackle 2 Lake Serene 5 Lac Rose 9 Bounty Lakes 13 Champagne Carping 17 Klean Kanteen 21 Aquil Lilium 28 and 29  
Bountyhunter 34 and 35 Ledenser 39 Oak Lake Fishery 45 Cottington Lakes 49 Coole Acre Lakes 53 Iktus 57 Bountyhunter 61  
Reuben Heaton 63 Bountyhunter 66 and 67 Bountyhunter 75 Bountyhunter 79 Bountyhunter 80





# Lake Serene Up For Sale

Situated in the Champagne Region near Vitry-le-François, the lake is just a three and a half hour drive from Calais.

Set over a 16-acre site, the lake occupies 10 acres, with a phenomenal stock of over 280 carp. (Average weight of 45lb to 47lb).

Situated within woodlands and off the beaten track, the lake is very secluded and peaceful. It has a 3-bedroom lodge and separate toilets and showers for the anglers.

It is a wonderful business opportunity for someone younger to drive it forward as the owners are wanting to retire.

If serious please **call John on +447763303712**  
to find out more information and arrange a visit...



# ShockLeader

What's happening, where and when in the carp scene



## Angling Taster days over the 2023 Summer Holidays

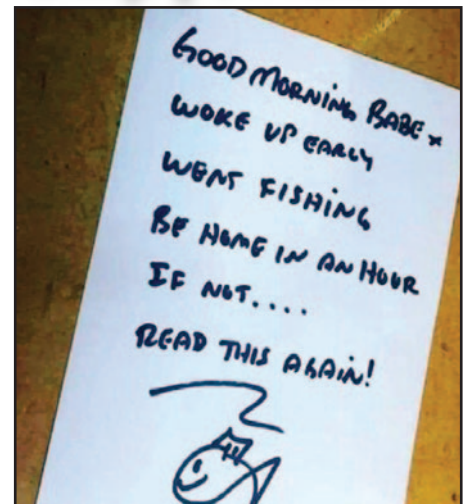
BPCFS Angling are offering the Emergency Services Family an opportunity to attend Angling Taster days over the 2023 Summer Holidays. There are 2 events planned which will provide you and your families an opportunity to get outdoors and give angling a try. They are totally free to attend, all equipment will be provided and experienced coaches will be on hand to help.

Fishing is the largest participation sport in the UK and it's enjoyed by so many across the globe. The last few years have had an impact on peoples Mental and Physical Health and we would like to encourage our blue light heroes and their families to come along and experience a day by the water taking in nature and seeing the positive benefits Angling can offer in regards to boosting mental health, reducing stress and anxiety levels. Adults and children are more than welcome to attend.

We are pleased to be able to be supported by Alders Farm Fishery and Manor Farm who have two fantastic venues. These venues have been used recently for events run by BPCFS angling. Now with the support of the Angling Trust and under their 'Get Fishing' initiative we are able to open it up to all 999 services.

For more info please make sure you follow the 'BPCFS Angling' Facebook Page where dates and booking information will be posted in the near future. ■

## Carp Humour





## RIVER CLOSE SEASON FOR COARSE FISHING

**15 March - 15 June (inclusive)**






**ENGLISH:** You are allowed to fish, but remember about the river **CLOSE SEASON**- there is no coarse fishing on rivers, streams and drains until 16th June.



**LITHUANIAN:** Jūs galite žvejoti, bet prisiminkite apie **UŽDARĄ SEZONĄ** upėse, upeliuose ir drenažuose, kuriuose negalima žvejoti kitos rūšies žuvis, išskyrus upėtakius ir lašišas iki birželio 16d.



**ROMANIAN:** Pescuitul este permis, dar amintiți-vă de perioada de prohibiție - este interzis pescuitul pe râuri, pâraie și drenuri până pe 16 iunie.



**POLISH:** Możesz teraz wędkować, ale pamiętaj o sezonie zamkniętym (coarse- poza pstrągami i lososiem) na rzekach, strumieniach i drenach- który obowiązuje do 16 czerwca.



**SLOVAKIAN:** Lov rýb je povolený, ale nezabúdajte, že na riekach a potokoch je lov zakázaný do 16 júna.

We can help your fishery or club with translating any information. Please visit:

[www.facebook.com/fishingwithoutborders](https://www.facebook.com/fishingwithoutborders)





## Become an Activist Angler – your rivers, lakes and oceans need you!

The Angling Trust and Fish Legal are supporting an initiative led by actor, angler and environmentalist Jim Murray to empower and educate anglers on how they can make a difference and protect their local waterways.

Activist Anglers encourage anglers to be more active by working together to hold polluters to account and effect real change while also offering anglers the tools they need to become activists on the waterways they love.

Working closely with the Angling Trust and Fish Legal, Activist Anglers aims to offer opportunities to volunteer and support campaigns to protect our environment.

Activist Anglers was created through Jim's love of fishing which opened his eyes to the immense challenges our waterways face as well as inspiring him to act where he could. Jim is an avid supporter of Fish Legal, an organisation that uses the law on behalf of its members to fight polluters and others who damage or threaten the water environment, and secure compensation to restore waters.

Jim, whose TV roles include playing Prince Andrew in *The Crown* and Stephen Hart in *Primeval*, said:

"It has never been timelier for our vast angling community to rally together to protect and fight for the future of our waterways. A single per-



**Jim Murray: "It has never been timelier for our vast angling community to rally together to protect and fight for the future of our waterways."**

son can make a real difference. A little drive and passion translate into a lot of action, and that is what is needed now more than ever to demand the government's attention in order to effect the change in policies that is so urgently required.

'When it comes to successful and tangible results in fighting pollution in our rivers and oceans, Fish Legal are probably THE most important organisation out there right now. I

urge all anglers to support them and the Angling Trust by getting more involved in the conservation of our waters in a bid to make them clean again."

John Cheyne, Angling Trust Head of Marketing and Communications, said: "Jim's passion for our sport and his commitment to defending our precious aquatic environments is inspiring. We are proud that he has chosen Angling Trust and Fish Legal as partners in this work and share his determination to encourage every angler to become an Activist Angler."

Ways in which anglers, clubs and fisheries can get involved include:

- Carry out regular testing of rivers by enrolling your club in our Water Quality Monitoring Network project.
- Pledge to support our Anglers Against Litter initiative and take part in litter picks.
- Volunteer to help protect the environment by assisting our Environmental Officers at organised events to clear invasive non-native species.
- Train to become an angling coach and share the joy of fishing with the next generation of anglers.
- Protect our waters from poaching and fish theft by becoming a Voluntary Bailiff.
- Support the work of the Angling Trust and Fish Legal by becoming a member. ■



### Lucy's Bowl 2023

We are pleased to announce the date for our 2023 Lucy's Bowl! Invitations will be sent out shortly so keep an eye on your inbox. Plus we'll have some great auctions for you to fish with the stars! ■



## Tickets Available Now!

Charity match tickets and prize draw tickets will be available this Monday at 7pm

We've had some fantastic prize donations already and 100% of your £5 will go directly to our local MIND to help tackle mental health. No limit on these so please give generously

The £100 2-day entry fee will include £70 pools, £20 donation to charity and a £10 peg fee that P&DAA will double and donate entirely to charity. This also means a great payout for the winners so don't miss the chance to take part and help us make a real difference to mental health through angling

Many thanks for prize donations so far and we'll start announcing them soon. If anyone would like to donate prizes please get in touch. ■



**Peterborough & District**  
**P&DAA**  
Angling Association

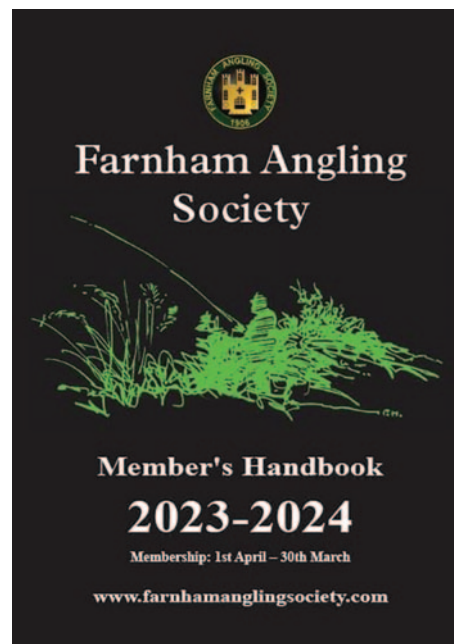
**mind CPSL**  
Cambridgeshire,  
Peterborough and  
South Lincolnshire

**CHARITY 2 DAY FESTIVAL**  
**9TH-10TH APRIL 2023**  
**+**  
**CHARITY PRIZE DRAW**

**FERRY MEADOWS 60 PEGS £100 ENTRY**  
**UNLIMITED £5 CHARITY PRIZE DRAW TICKETS**  
**FOR A CHANCE TO WIN FANTASTIC DONATED PRIZES**

**ALL PROCEEDS DONATED TO OUR LOCAL MIND**

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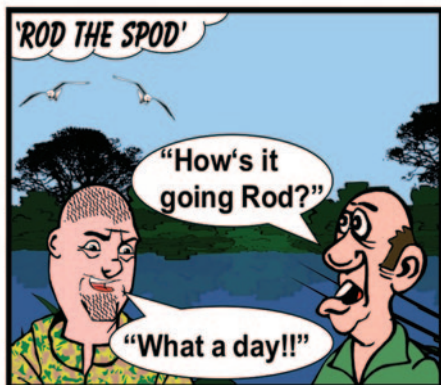
**Farnham Angling Society**

**Member's Handbook**  
**2023-2024**  
Membership: 1st April – 30th March  
[www.farnhamanglingsociety.com](http://www.farnhamanglingsociety.com)

## Farnham AS Handbook Out Now!

Farnham AS Handbooks for the 2023 – 2024 season starting 1st April 2023 are now available to purchase using our easy to use online system. <https://www.farnhamanglingsociety.com/join-us/> Please remember that whether renewing or joining FAS, each member needs their own separate email address, you cannot purchase your own membership and another for your family or friend and use the same email address. All handbooks will be issued in the same order as the applications were received. Handbooks will start to be posted out as of 2nd March 2023 once received from our printer.

Those ordering BCAA membership will be sent their membership books once we receive the from the BCAA, which is often in May. Ian Gray, Honorary Secretary, on behalf of the Executive Committee. ■



PAUL RODRIGUEZ



We still have some very limited space available for 2023, if you would like to join us this year, please get in touch ASAP.

The books are now open to for 2024 and 2025. Once again please get in touch ASAP to avoid disappointment.

- Six and a half acres
- Three and a half to four hours from Calais or Caen
- Carp through to 63lb recorded in my time here. (180-200 carp)
- No nuisance species
- Very good average weights with around 25-30% recorded over 40lb at last Winter's netting
- Lake exclusive only
- On site shower, toilet and food packages available

Just give us a DM on the FB pages or drop me a line on 07810710880 for available dates. Wherever you're fishing, have fun and good luck.

*Mark Kelynack*



Visit us on Facebook





# Take a Friend Fishing – more opportunity than ever for angling success

## Take a Friend Fishing Campaign Dates:

Take a Friend Fishing Easter runs from Saturday 1st of April to Sunday 16th of April 2023 (inclusive).

Take a Friend Fishing with National Fishing Month runs from Saturday 29th of July to Sunday 3rd of September 2023 (inclusive).

## Take a Friend Fishing Key Messages:

Take a Friend Fishing offers more opportunity than ever to get out fishing with a friend during our extended Easter and summer campaigns in 2023.

Take a Friend Fishing continues to grow in 2023 with bigger campaigns, more weekends, and more opportunity for you to go fishing and create those long-lasting friendships and memories.

Existing fishing licence holders can register for a FREE one-day fishing licence from the Environment Agency at [www.takeafriendfishing.co.uk](http://www.takeafriendfishing.co.uk) to take someone they know fishing.

Half terms, National and family holidays all provide opportunities for us to unwind, be with friends and interact with the environment around us. Taking a friend or family member on a fishing trip is a great way to spend time outdoors. Escaping modern life to build friendships, create lasting memories and just enjoy some time next to the water, is the ultimate in relaxation.

## A new angle for your Easter Holiday

To access the Take a Friend Fishing initiative during the Easter break between Saturday 1st of April and Sunday 16th of April (inclusive), existing fishing licence holders can register for a FREE one-day fishing licence from the Environment Agency at [www.takeafriendfishing.co.uk](http://www.takeafriendfishing.co.uk) and take someone they know fishing.

## Get Involved with Angling This Summer

To make the most of Take a Friend Fishing and National Fishing Month events during the summer holidays, between Saturday 29th of July and Sunday 3rd of September (inclusive), existing fishing licence holders can register for a FREE one-day fishing licence from the Environment Agency at [www.takeafriendfishing.co.uk](http://www.takeafriendfishing.co.uk) and introduce a friend to fishing.

With the pressures of modern life, physical health and mental wellbeing

are more important than ever. The experience of a fishing trip together with a work colleague, family member, partner or just a mate, offers the ideal opportunity to unwind and recharge your battery, whilst being active at the same time. Find out more at [www.takeafriendfishing.co.uk/#faqs](http://www.takeafriendfishing.co.uk/#faqs)

Getting outside in the countryside is a great way to be together with family and friends and angling is the perfect fit for staying active outdoors, especially if you are staying in England or Wales this summer. There are many fisheries near to where you live that are perfect to visit for a catch-up with a friend during a quick Take a Friend Fishing trip together. Find out about where you can fish safely at [www.takeafriendfishing.co.uk/#faqs](http://www.takeafriendfishing.co.uk/#faqs)

## Registering for a free one-day fishing licence couldn't be easier.

Simply visit [www.takeafriendfishing.co.uk/register-free-friend-fishing-licence/](http://www.takeafriendfishing.co.uk/register-free-friend-fishing-licence/) select the date of your fishing trip, enter some basic information about you and your friend, and away you go!

The free fishing licence will be sent with a confirmation email, so please remember to have your fishing licence and both people's email addresses plus a few other details handy when you pre-register to Take a Friend Fishing.

Take a Friend Fishing is an initiative run by Angling Trades Association in association with the Environment Agency and supported by Angling Trust, Canal & River Trust and many other angling organisations. Take a Friend Fishing opens up the world of angling to people from all age groups and communities, giving the opportunity for anglers and non-anglers alike, at all levels of ability, the chance to get into fishing or back into fishing after time away.

In 2022 over 6,000 people registered to take part in Take a Friend Fishing. Now Take a Friend Fishing is back with an extended programme that gives the biggest window of opportunity yet to anglers, non-anglers and those thinking about reconnecting with the pastime they once enjoyed.

This year, we want even more people to get their backside bankside and Take a Friend Fishing to show them just how easy it is to get into angling

and experience the benefits of time out in nature. To relax and engage with nature and the outdoors is a rewarding experience especially with a friend. With a free one-day fishing licence from the Environment Agency worth £6.50 (coarse and non-migratory trout) or £12.60 (salmon and sea trout).

## A Collaboration for Angling

Andrew Race, Chairman of the Angling Trades Association (ATA), added "After the success of Take a Friend Fishing in 2022, I am looking forward to building momentum again in 2023 with an extended programme. Take a Friend Fishing is capable of making such a difference, not only to the long-term development of angling recruitment, but also to people's lives. Angling is a proven therapy both mentally and physically and it knows no boundaries in terms of ability, age, sex, or background.

Heidi Stone, Environment Agency Fisheries Partnerships Manager, "Fishing with family members or friends is a fantastic way to spend quality time together whilst also enjoying all that nature has to offer. Take a Friend Fishing is a brilliant campaign that allows anglers of all levels of ability to improve their skills, or simply give fishing a try – and I'm proud to again be supporting this initiative that makes this great hobby more accessible for all."

Clive Copeland, Head of Participation at the Angling Trust, said "We are delighted to be supporting Take a Friend Fishing 2023. There are several key-dates during our Spring into Fishing campaign between April and June when children and families can get out on our wonderful springtime fisheries. Take a Friend Fishing provides an incentive for existing fishing licence holding anglers to get back out on the bank again and introduce a newcomer giving us more opportunity to engage with an even wider community."

John W Ellis BSc (Hons) FIFM National Fisheries and Angling Manager Canal & River Trust, said "Canal & River Trust is delighted to be working alongside the Angling Trade Association to support the Take a Friend fishing initiative in 2023. Our Trust is responsible for looking after over 2000 miles of canal fishery and over 70 reservoirs. Over 8 million people live within 1000 metres of one of our fish-



eries and nearly 50% of the population within 5 miles of one. We will be encouraging members of the 250 angling clubs who rent water from us to help their club grow membership by taking a friend fishing with them for a day.'

Hashtags:

#takeafriendfishing

#### Social Media:

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/TakeAFriendFishingTAFF](http://www.facebook.com/TakeAFriendFishingTAFF)

Instagram: [www.instagram.com/taff\\_ata](http://www.instagram.com/taff_ata)

#### Media Contacts:

Angling Trades Association: Anna Santoro – [info@anglingtradesassociation.com](mailto:info@anglingtradesassociation.com) 0333 5779970

Environment Agency: Tom Sherwood – [tom.sherwood@environment-agency.org.uk](mailto:tom.sherwood@environment-agency.org.uk) 020 302 59782

Angling Trust: James Roche – [james.roche@anglingtrust.net](mailto:james.roche@anglingtrust.net) 07791 786 251

Canal & River Trust: Ammarah Gordon – [ammarah.gordon@canal-rivertrust.org.uk](mailto:ammarah.gordon@canal-rivertrust.org.uk) 0750 399 2692

#### Who We Are:

The Angling Trade Association (ATA) is the recognised body and voice of the UK angling trade aiming to unite the industry, promote and protect our beloved sport. Its mission statement "To promote, represent and protect the angling trade" ensures that the ATA is involved in all aspects of the angling industry. The ATA works to promote growth in the UK angling industry through long term investment and cooperation with all major stakeholders. If you are involved in the angling trade and want to contribute to that growth, take a look at [www.anglingtradesassociation.com](http://www.anglingtradesassociation.com)

The Angling Trust is recognised by the Government as the National Governing Body for angling in England and a partner with Visit Wales and NRW to promote Fishing in Wales. It is a member-based organisation made up of anglers of all disciplines providing a united front to represent, grow and protect our sport. By becoming a member of the Angling Trust you are helping to protect the waterways you fish in and the fish which live in them, ensuring their health and protection for future generations.

By joining, you help us to invest in participation initiatives to introduce more people to fishing. Whether you compete in coarse, game or sea matches, on commercial or natural venues, locally, nationally, or internationally, as a member of the Angling

Trust you have access to Britain's biggest and best competitions programme. To find out all about the Angling Trust visit [www.anglingtrust.net](http://www.anglingtrust.net)

The Environment Agency works to create better places for people and wildlife and support sustainable development.

We are responsible for regulating major industry and waste treatment of contaminated land water quality and resources fisheries inland river, estuary and harbour navigations conservation and ecology. We are also responsible for managing the risk of

flooding from main rivers, reservoirs, estuaries, and the sea. The Environment Agency works with businesses and other organisations to manage the use of resources, increase the resilience of people, property, and businesses to the risks of flooding and coastal erosion, protect and improving water, land, and biodiversity improve the way we work as a regulator to protect people and the environment and support sustainable growth and encourage sales of rod fishing licences. <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency> ■

## Did you see?

### Our Troubled Rivers with Angling Trust Ambassador Paul Whitehouse.

The first program covered the River Tame, microplastics, Windermere, and the River Wharfe. The show also featured Angling Trust Ambassador Feargal Sharkey and Anglers Against Pollution supporter Mark Barrow of Beneath British Waters

#AnglersAgainstPollution

#AnglingTrust

Catch it now on BBC iPlayer. ■

**TV Paul: Our polluted rivers are liquid death**

Whitehouse is left reeling in water exposé

**CLEAN-UP**  
With eco-warrior Feargal Sharkey

**BANK JOB**  
Fishing show by river's edge

**EXCLUSIVE**  
BY NICOLA METHVEN  
TV Editor

**PAUL: Whitehouse is staggered by the "liquid death" he encounters while investigating Britain's rivers.**

In two hard-hitting documentaries, the keen angler sets out to discover whether the nation's water companies are illegally discharging untreated sewage into our waterways in a bid to cut corners and increase profits.

In *Our Troubled Rivers*, he seems to find plenty of evidence that they are.

In the first episode, Paul learns that regulations on when firms are allowed to discharge sewage – during high rainfall only – are apparently being ignored.

Paul, who has starred in *Game Fishing* with Bob Mortimer since 2018, meets Mark Barrow, who regularly films beneath the surface of Yorkshire's River Wharfe as sewage is being pumped in.

Mark, who wears a testkit for the job, says: "You're going to see it, so believe it. Quite often when I get out I'm covered in everything that's

been flushed down the toilet." Mark shows the collection of wet wipes and sanitary products he has scooped up.

Paul, 64, tells him: "You wouldn't get me in there, not in a million years."

"Oh my God, it's liquid death. That is deeply unpleasant. It's obvious that if you show that to people they'll be appalled. It defies belief."

Since 1988, when the water firms were privatised, they have become big businesses. In 2022, Yorkshire Water made £200million profit and United Utilities made £400m. Paul also meets heartbroken angler Chris Clark at the River Tame in Manchester.

He says it was "soul destroying" to see raw sewage pumped into the river on a day when the Environment Agency was replenishing fish stocks.

Prof Jason Woodward, professor of physical geography at the University of Manchester, says the Tame has the highest concentration of microplastics recorded on any riverbed in the world.

He claims that this proves United is

discharging untreated sewage, because the treatment process is 99% effective at removing them. He also says it must be at times of low flow – which is illegal – or they would be washed away. The water company disputes his findings.

In the *Cutwrecks*, retired teacher professor Peter Hammond and wildlife officer Ashley Smith are trying to lead the water firms to account.

The claim that raw sewage is only discharged during stormy conditions is "complete rubbish", they say.

Ashley claims that since 1989, £200million has gone into the industry, mostly to subsidise firms based in China, Canada and Abu Dhabi.

The determined pair believe that the solution to the problem is to return the firms to public ownership.

Paul, who also meets pop star-turned-campaigner Feargal Sharkey in the show, adds: "I will find it astonishing that the water companies would put untreated sewage into our rivers."

■ Paul Whitehouse: *Our Troubled Rivers*, Sunday, BBC2 at 8pm.

**LAB TIME**  
Star probes a river sample

**"You would not get me to go in that water, not in a million years..."**

PAUL WHITEHOUSE IN  
POLLS TO RIVER WATERS



## Spring into Fishing is back for 2023 with free fishing sessions from the Angling Trust

- Nationwide event series returns with free fishing events for families this April, May and June
- Going fishing is the ideal opportunity to spend time outdoors in nature
- Run by the Angling Trust and supported by the Environment Agency, Sport England, Angling Direct and Shakespeare Fishing Tackle

Come and Spring into Fishing at free, fun, outdoor activity events for families around the country that are the perfect way to discover the wonderful world of angling. Everybody is welcome, to come and try fishing – whatever your age, ability or experience level.

Never been fishing before? No problem – tackle, bait, instruction and info on fishing clubs and places to go are all included for everyone at Spring into Fishing events.

Already a beginner? Great – come back and continue your introduction to angling, refresh your basic fishing skills this spring and discover some new fishing tips to help progress your angling to the next-level!

Spring into Fishing beginner sessions are quality assured by the Angling Trust to give the best possible experience of fishing to children, families and anybody who wants to find out what you need and where to go fishing. Funded by the Environment Agency and Sport England, Spring into Fishing gives everyone the chance to get outside, try fishing and learn new skills.

Book a Place: <https://www.anglingtrust.net/springintofishing>

Free fishing events like this let you experience first-hand how fun, inexpensive and accessible fishing is, and how it's good for your wellbeing to get outside next to water and simply tune-in to the peace and quiet of nature.

Spring into Fishing events are happening all over the country from April right through to June at fishing clubs and venues in partnership with friendly, helpful coaches and volunteers who will show you and your children what fishing is all about.

Spring into Fishing events in April, May and June are the perfect time to get back outdoors and get ready for a summer full of fishing fun. Find out more about what to expect at a Spring into Fishing event, and how to sign up in advance for a free event

near you at [www.anglingtrust.net/springintofishing](http://www.anglingtrust.net/springintofishing).

Clive Copeland, Head of Participation at the Angling Trust explained: "Spring into Fishing has always been a hit with families and newcomers looking to get back outside after winter when it's not just about the fishing. At this time of year it's about reminding yourself how everyone can have fun when you spend just a bit of time to re-connect with all the wonderful things you only get to see together at the waterside."

Heidi Stone, Fisheries Partnerships Manager at the Environment Agency said: "Fishing is a fantastic way to get outdoors, reconnect with nature and try something new – not to mention the number of health and wellbeing benefits it brings. I'm delighted to once again support the Spring into Fishing campaign to help people up and down the country discover this great hobby with free fishing sessions on offer to take help take their angling to the next level."

Don't forget to share your fishing adventures this spring. This year Spring into Fishing is happening when there are loads of special dates for your diary including bank holidays, school summer half term, the

Coronation of King Charles III and to give you the chance to take part there'll be at least one big, free, Spring into Fishing Flagship Event at a venue near to you with excellent accessibility, toilet and parking facilities plus the opportunity for existing fishing licence holding adult anglers to take a friend fishing.

Sign-up to be the first to get latest news at [www.anglingtrust.net/springintofishing](http://www.anglingtrust.net/springintofishing)

Dates for your diary during Spring into Fishing this April May and June 2023

- Good Friday – Friday 7th April
  - Easter Monday – Monday 10th April
  - Take a Friend Fishing – 1st to 16th April
  - Early May Bank Holiday – Monday 1st May
  - Bank Holiday for the Coronation of King Charles III – Monday 8th May
  - Spring Bank Holiday – Monday 29th May
  - School Half Term Holiday – Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June
- Get the latest events, news and offers:

Facebook: Get Fishing

TikTok: @getintofishing

Instagram: @getintofishing ■





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## Support Spring into Fishing

### WHEN: April, May and June 2023

### Here's how to get involved

#### Spring into Fishing

Spring into Fishing is a nationwide series of completely FREE fishing events, with supporting videos and activation to help beginner anglers access free angling instruction, tackle, bait and local fishing information then take their next steps on to a summer full of fishing opportunities this year.

5 quick ways to support Spring into FishingPlease raise awareness about Spring into Fishing through your audiences and networks.

Here's how you can help.

#### 1) Social Media Post

Get accompanying Social Media assets at:

Spring-into-Fishing-2023-Toolkit-of-Graphic-Assets-V2.zip

#### SUGGESTED POST

This April to June book a free place for Spring into Fishing beginner events where tackle, bait, instruction & a one-day fishing licence are all included FREE on the day. <https://www.anglingtrust.net/springintofishing> #SpringIntoFishing

#### 2. Share the News

Get accompanying images, logos and the full Press Release at:

Spring-into-Fishing-2023-Toolkit-of-Graphic-Assets-V2.

Come and Spring into Fishing at free, fun, outdoor activity events for families around the country that are the perfect way to discover the won-



derful world of angling. Everybody is welcome, to come and try fishing – whatever your age, ability or experience level.

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Spring into Fishing is the perfect





time to get back outdoors and get ready for a summer full of fishing fun. Find out more about what to expect at a Spring into Fishing event, and how to sign up in advance for a free event near you at [www.anglingtrust.net/springintofishing](http://www.anglingtrust.net/springintofishing).

This year Spring into Fishing is happening when there are loads of special dates for your diary including bank holidays, school summer half term, the Coronation of King Charles III and to give you the chance to take part there'll be at least one big, free, Spring into Fishing Flagship Event at a venue near to you with excellent accessibility, toilet and parking facilities plus the opportunity for existing fishing licence holding adult anglers to take a friend fishing.

Book FREE places at [www.anglingtrust.net/springintofishing](http://www.anglingtrust.net/springintofishing)

Don't forget to share your fishing adventures this spring.

Use #SpringIntoFishing #GetFishing

Facebook: Get Fishing

TikTok: @getintofishing

Instagram: @getintofishing

### 3. Come to a Spring into Fishing event!

We'd love to meet you and your family or colleagues at a Spring into Fishing Flagship event so that you can be part of a beginner fishing event, and share your experience live from the day using #SpringIntoFishing

You can book places in advance to bring beginners fishing using the links to Eventbrite below or to make arrangements for media opportunities or find out how to run your own Spring into Fishing event, please contact [james.roche@anglingtrust.net](mailto:james.roche@anglingtrust.net).

We look forward to meeting you!

### 4. Use #SpringIntoFishing

During April, May and June, please include the hashtag #springintofishing in your social media and like and share our content. Thanks!

Facebook: Get Fishing

TikTok: @getintofishing

Instagram: @getintofishing

Spring into Fishing is part of the Angling Trust's Get Fishing campaign to get more people fishing, more often.

### 5. Download the Toolkit

Get the Spring into Fishing brand assets including logos and sample images.

We have hundreds more game, coarse and sea fishing photos – please email if you would like alternatives – [james.roche@anglingtrust.net](mailto:james.roche@anglingtrust.net)



### KEY MESSAGES

Spring into Fishing flagship events are completely free.

Everybody is welcome whatever your age, ability or experience level.

Tackle, bait, instruction and info on fishing clubs and places to go are all provided FREE on the day.

Learn or refresh your fishing skills and take your angling to the next-level!

### ABOUT FISHING

Going fishing is one of the nation's most popular pastimes because people who go fishing fall in love with the way it combines being in nature, healthy activity and proven mental health benefits – it relaxes you, gives you a reason to get off your screen and a chance to forget about the challenges of daily life and the rising cost of living.

Fishing is a low-cost activity that only needs a small amount of money and time to do. It's easy to get into with a few bits of fishing tackle and a fishing licence. You do not need a licence if you are under 12 years of age and licences for 12 to 16 year-olds are free. [www.gov.uk/fishing-licences](http://www.gov.uk/fishing-licences)

There is a close season on rivers which runs from 15th March to 15th June (inclusive). A close season may also apply on some stillwaters, drains and canals. Please check local rules and local fishing byelaws



8 million people live within 5 minutes' walk of somewhere to go fishing and 11% of England's population live just a 10 minute walk or 2 minute cycle of somewhere to go fishing.

A OnePoll survey for the Angling Trust revealed that a quarter of people (26%) have enjoyed spending more time outdoors because it gives them 'a sense of freedom' and allows them to entertain their children (17%). A third of them (33%) are looking for an opportunity to spend quality time with family and friends.

Fishing licence sales pay for the environment to be protected – in 2021/22 the Environment Agency and its partners opened up or improved habitats for fish on 602 kilometres (km) of rivers and enhanced 168 hectares (ha) of stillwater fisheries. See more at the Fisheries annual report 2021 to 2022. ■





## Welcome to your Members Newsletter

Welcome to the latest issue of the Angling Trust & Fish Legal Members Newsletter. Today we report on the launch of our annual Christmas Raffle which raises vital funds to support our work to protect fish, fishing and the environment; how sea angling can benefit from an £18m fund; our latest trade associate partner Zerofit who have a special offer for members; the fantastic film we have produced of this year's RiverFest final on the Trent; and loads more! Tight lines! John Cheyne, Marketing, Communications & Membership Manager:



The Angling Trust & Fish Legal Online Auction is now live and runs until the 26th March. Once again, we have an incredible selection of lots on offer to suit every taste and budget – whether you're a game, coarse, sea, match or carp angler!

Interested in a day's private hire of Hobby Lake at the Sportfish Game Fishing Centre or is a day fly fishing on the upper river Wye in Derbyshire more to your taste? How about a carp angling bundle from Angling Direct worth £1,000 with everything you need for sessions at the lake? If the sea is your thing why not bag two places on the charter boat Deep Blue sailing out of Eastbourne?

With over 140 lots to browse through with more being added throughout March – there is definitely something for you. ■

## Online Auction is now live! Grab a bargain and raise funds to support our work to protect fish and fishing



## Angling Improvement Fund set to reopen next week



The Angling Improvement Fund is due to reopen to applicants on 17th March and will close on 30th April. Initially this will be for funding towards projects tackling the impacts of predation by otters and non-migratory fish eating birds.

All applicants for this round of funding MUST have consulted with one of our Fisheries Management Advisors before submitting an application. We advise that you do this early to give you the best possible chance of getting advice before the closing date. To find your local FMA please visit their webpage here.

Funding for Biosecurity and Invasive Non-Native Species projects is due to launch in April. For information about this fund please email AIFadmin@anglingtrust.net. ■

Next year's seventh series is expanded to a run of eight episodes for the first time, with the friends' excursions seeing them visit Derbyshire, Newark, Bedfordshire, North Norfolk and Northern Ireland.



"We are delighted *Gone Fishing* will be coming back later this year for a sixth series and then a bumper seventh in 2024," BBC commissioning editor Max Gogarty said. "This show brings a huge amount of joy, catharsis and escapism to millions each week and we're thrilled the boys will be back (Ted in tow) later this year."



## Show the world that anglers care – visit our online store!



Support our work and show the world that anglers care about our aquatic environment by buying Anglers Against Pollution or Love Fishing Love Nature branded clothing from our online store.

We have a selection of T-shirts, hoodies, caps and beanies in a variety of sizes and colours for men, women and children – and if you are quick, you can still take advantage of our 20% discount! ■

## Become an Activist Angler and join Jim Murray's campaign to protect our rivers, lakes and oceans

The Angling Trust and Fish Legal are supporting an initiative led by actor, angler and environmentalist Jim Murray to empower and educate anglers on how they can make a difference and protect their local waterways.

Activist Anglers encourage anglers to be more active by working together to hold polluters to account and effect real change while also offering anglers the tools they need to become activists on the waterways they love.

Working closely with the Angling Trust and Fish Legal, Activist Anglers aims to offer opportunities to volunteer and support campaigns to protect our environment. ■

## Spring Into Fishing – book a FREE place for beginners!



This April to June book a free place for Spring into Fishing beginner events where tackle, bait, instruction and a one-day fishing licence are all included FREE on the day. Experience how simple, cheap, and accessible fishing is, enjoy some peace and quiet by the water combined with the excitement of catching a fish!

Spring into Fishing will take your angling to the next level in time for a summer full of fishing adventures together. ■





### New campaign to protect tench and promote tench fishing



A new project to promote and protect tench and increase opportunities for tench fishing in the UK has been launched in a joint initiative between the Tenchfishers and the Angling Trust.

Tench Fishing: The Future (TFTF) began after a workshop was held in January 2020 to discuss the current state of tench fishing in England, attended by the Environment Agency, Institute of Fisheries Management and other organisations.

TFTF aims to raise the profile of tench fishing, and encourage fishery managers to consider tench as an option when developing their waters.

To support this, a new knowledge base has been created on the Angling Trust website where detailed guidance can be found on creating a tench-friendly fishery. ■

### 'Bagger' Bennet is our Zerofit Silverfish champion!



Match ace Andy Bennett is the new Angling Trust Zerofit SilverFish 2022-23 champion following a perfect display of pole fishing at this season's £10,000 grand final hosted at Lancashire's Bradshaw Hall Fisheries.

Nicknamed 'Bagger', the Guru and Blakes Baits-backed angler lived up to his moniker with a 31lb 14oz haul of skimmers, roach, and ide from Lake 4's peg 14 to collect the £5,000 top prize. This was just over 4lb too good for England international Cameron Hughes in second place on 27lb 5oz.

Read the full match report

#### ZEROFIT PRIZES & FREE HAT OFFER

Zerofit SilverFish 2023 champion Andy Bennett also receives a Zerofit Baselay Head-to-Toe Bundle worth £230 including Ultimate baselayer, Ultimate Leggings, Ultimate Neck Warmer, Ultimate Socks, Performance Move Hoodie and Thermal Hat in addition to his prize.

Angling Trust members and SilverFish anglers will receive a free Thermal Bobble Hat worth £20 when they buy a Zerofit baselayer – simply enter the code FREEHATSF when you checkout. ■

### Chalk streams need urgent action NOW!



Chalk Streams First – a coalition of NGOs including the Angling Trust – has called for a proposal for re-naturalising the flows in our precious Chiltern chalk streams to be adopted. The proposal, launched in 2020, involves reducing abstraction from the headwaters, allowing the improved flows to make their way downstream to the Thames and Lea where the water would be pumped into existing London reservoirs.

The proposal allows the chalk stream flows to be largely re-naturalised, with public water supplies taken instead from much larger and less ecologically sensitive river reaches further down the Thames catchment. In this way, there could be large reductions in the damaging chalk stream abstractions. ■





## Congratulations to our Great Fishing Prize Draw winners

The Great Fishing Prize Draw has taken place and we are delighted to announce our winners:

- Jeremy Wade Prize – Richard Vainer
- Will Raison Prize – Dwayne Seed
- Dave Lewis Prize – David Matthews
- Hywel Morgan Prize – Joan Russell
- David Seaman Prize – Daniel Brooks
- Passion for Angling Prize – Andrew Parker

Congratulations – we hope you have a fantastic time! Thank you to everyone who took part in the draw and supported us – we really appreciate it. ■

## Save up to 30% on kitchen appliances with your exclusive Angling Trust membership to VIP Whirlpool



From washing machines to waterproofs! Angling Trust members receive great discounts on a wide range of goods and services.

Angling Trust members now have access to the exclusive VIP Whirlpool discount site with members-only pricing on hundreds of appliances from four great brands – Whirlpool, Hotpoint, Indesit and Kitchen Aid.

Products include washing machines, tumble dryers, fridges, freezers, ovens, hobs, cookers, microwaves, dishwashers and more! ■

## Public's 'right to know' about water company pollution is under threat – sign the petition and support Fish Legal



In 2015, Fish Legal won a landmark legal case that secured a right for the public to access environmental information directly from privatised water companies in England and Wales. The right has been critical in exposing water company abuses – but it is under threat.

The Environmental Information Regulations 2004 are on a list of legislation that Defra is considering scrapping as part of a Government Bill currently progressing through Parliament. If the regulations and the case law disappear, privatised water companies can go back to polluting under a veil of secrecy.

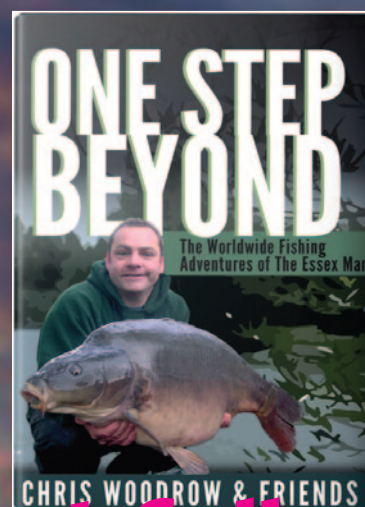
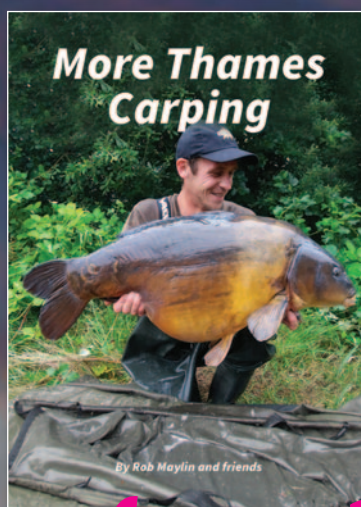
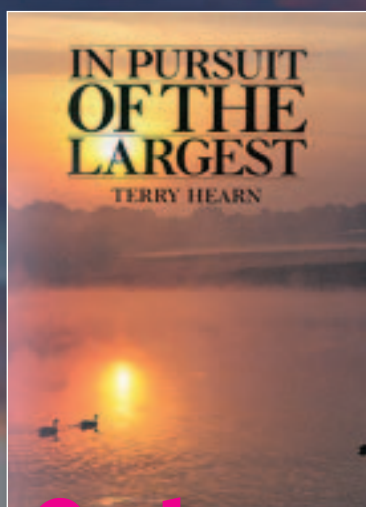
We are not going to let that happen without a fight.

You can help by SIGNING OUR PETITION to protect the right to know what damage water companies are doing to our rivers, lakes and coastal waters.

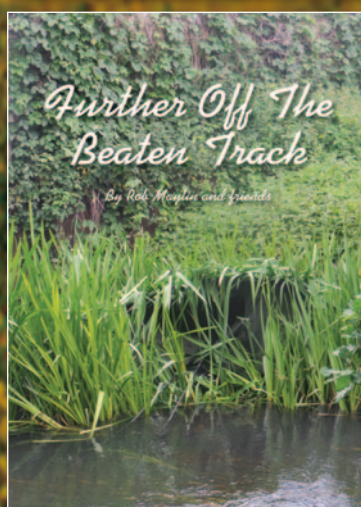
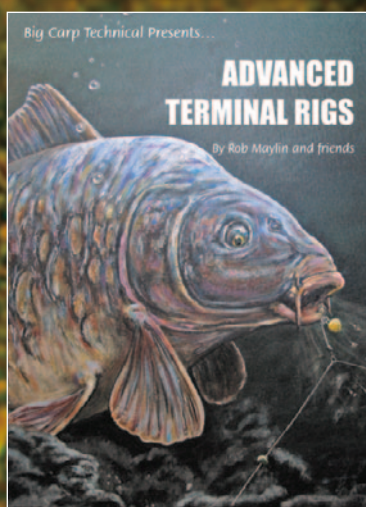
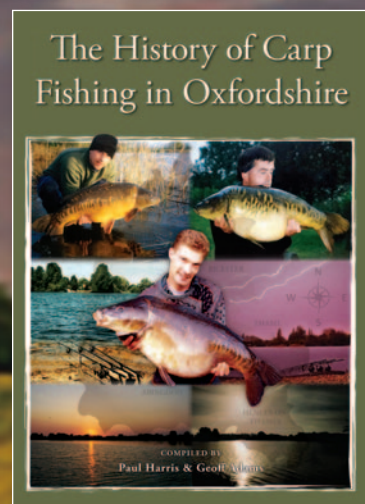
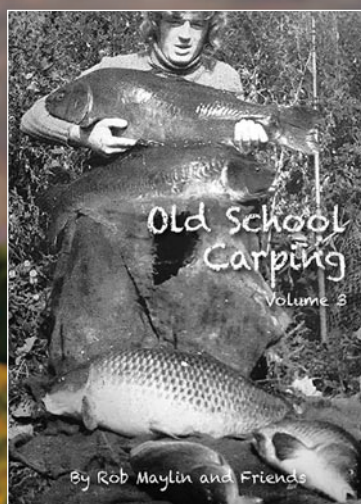
If you can spare £5 or more, please MAKE A DONATION to support Fish Legal in this campaign. ■



# SPRING INT



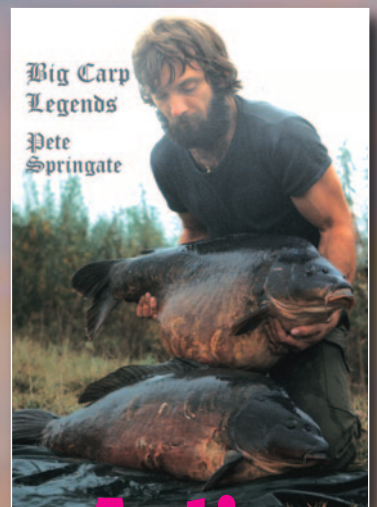
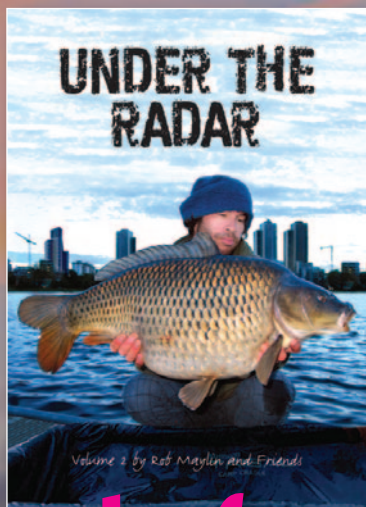
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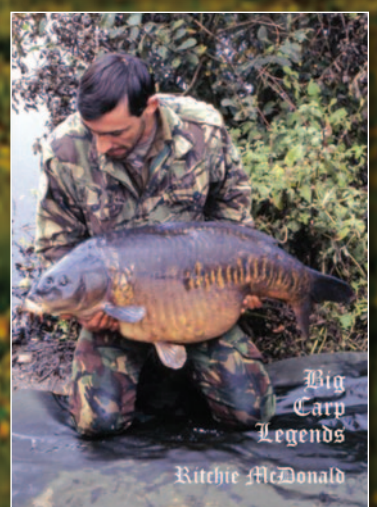
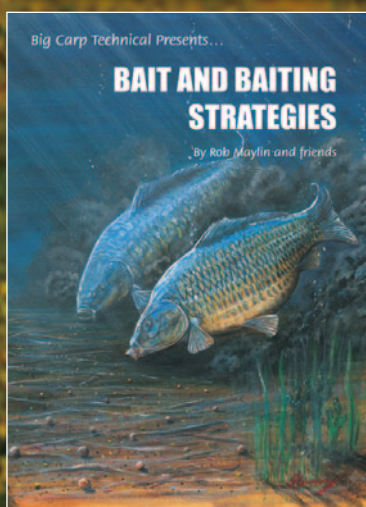
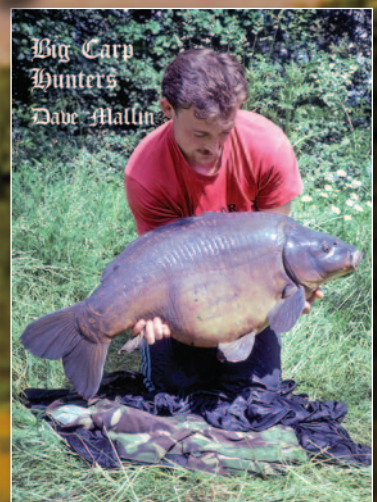
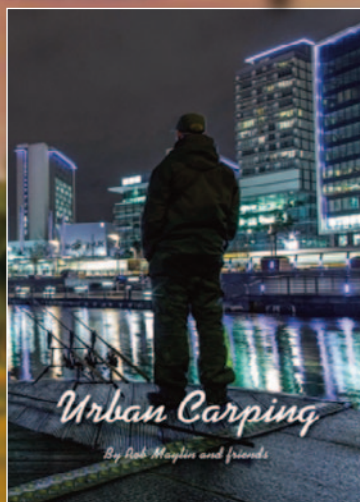
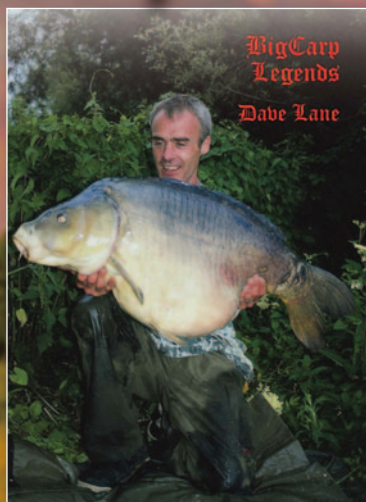
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# TO ACTION



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### Tim Crump catch report

Let's hope 2023 brings a few more of these. The last of the big 4 to fall, the passenger at 43lb in a 2 hour session. With the weather due that day I just knew I had to be fishing, everything fell into place perfectly.

#solartackle #forthesharpercarper #carp #bigcarp #angler #angling #carpfishing



### Darrell Peck catch report

Been after this one on and off since January 2016 - The Bayeswater Syndicates Mango weighing 43.8. I caught him at dusk during last week's mild spell - (Having blanked my previous 11 nights through January and early Feb.) He fell to a short zig rig, incorporating a super sharp size 6 Kamakura Wide Gape and 8lb Kruiser hook link. #winterhero #bigcarp #korda #carpfix #mainlinebaits



### Ches Boughen catch report

A 34lb 15oz common was the biggest of a 5 fish hit for Ches Boughen recently as the Cambridgeshire angler continues his good run of form. Cell crumb with Cell Smart Liquid, Cell Stick Mix Liquid, Hemp Oil and Multi Stim, with a handful of Cell Response Pellets did the trick with a Ronnie with two Cell Toppers soaked in Essential Cell liquid proving to be irresistible. Well done, Ches.







### February Success for Daniel Bunn

The mild spell we've had recently has certainly switched the carp on all over the country. Daniel Bunn got in on the action landing 'Martha' at a whopping 45lb! Ten spombs of Manilla, soaked in Cloudy Manilla liquid made its way down through the depths, and onto Dans spot in 22 feet of water! February doesn't give big 'uns up easily, but when they come, they are all the more rewarding. #StickyBaits #Manilla



### Chris Connaughton catch report

Here's Chris Connaughton with his new Uk pb and lake record 'The Bullet' at a mega 44.12!! Proper result for February size 4 chod B's doing the business well done mate #jprecisionhooks #unfairadvantage



### Stephen Best catch report

NEW CORNISH RECORD – A huge congratulations to Stephen Best on his recent PB and new Cornish record which spun the needles to a whopping 49lb 3oz. That's certainly no Cornish pasty!! Steve had been targeting the fish from @spooky\_pool\_cornwall for the past 6 years and finally the dream is over. Steve fished a size 6 Xcalibr kurv shank on a Ronnie rig with 20lb camh20 hook link on a 20 lb FHX fluorocarbon leader and 15 lb FLX mainline line. We're all made up for you @stephenbest1975 congratulations.



### Rob Drinkwater catch report

Wanted this one from the moment I saw pictures of it. An absolutely classic fish with such great features and a mayhooosive head! Proper run me ragged of one of the platforms and looked mega as she twisted and turned in the clear deep water below!! Hortons Pam at 46lb.14oz. Big shout out to all the boys that helped...made it that bit more special.







## Dan Davies Catch Report

Can't believe the session I just had at Pavvyotts mill fishery, started the week off with a new U.K. PB at 40.02 named scar-face, moved to peg 7 blanked for three nights and moved one swim down in to 8 and landed the prize of the lake Ben at 48.04lb, that morning left hand rod pulled up tight to find this other monster at 45lb named Chloie, what a session thanks for the monster squid and pop us the they worked at treat back Sunday for another week. Comonnnnn!

## Jack Lamb catch report

Now this one will wash away the Monday morning blues! Jack Lamb fished a couple of nights on Berners Hall recently and managed four fish, topped off by this stunning 35lb mirror! After a slow start, he spotted the fish were moving around a fair bit longer than his area, so he changed over his spools to 15lb Orbit Tapered Leader Main Line and smashed 3 single hookbaits toward them at 30 wraps along with a mini Disperse PVA Mesh bag of pellet. His rigs were made using 10ins of Spectre tied to a size 6 Ape-X Straight Point hook and he fished it D-rig style with a Dynamite Baits Tiger Nut wafer and trimmed down pop-up.





### Lee Kidd catch report

This certainly wasn't planned! Early January and I am camped up in a right old muddy mess of a swim. Couldn't get a proper cast because I set the bivvy up in the wrong place....then I'm sitting there watching the rods and the backlead rod was dipping down very, very slightly so I thought to myself...nah that's just the wind....then it pulled down harder so I knew I had to lift the rod up. Well!! It was clear I was attached to a carp trying to get away with it. A battle commenced and eventually after taking both rods out it surfaced with a ball of line everywhere and it dawned on me that I had a unit attached. In the net it goes and I recognised it as a previous capture of Scar the big mirror in Kingsmead, however this time it looked fit and supercharged and I wasn't wrong. It's was mid 50 so was absolutely made up because I caught it at 49.8 in August and although I'm not all about weights of fish, it is always nice to get a 50!!! So happy days!!

@gardnertackle @wraysbury\_baits

#carpfishing #carp #fishing #carping #carpfishinguk #carpy  
#karpfen #carpangling #fishinglife #bigcarp #angler #fisherman  
#chunk #outdoors #carplife #danglarnation #oncarp  
#gardnertackle #wofteclo #carpology #carpwatch #thatscarpy  
#instacarp #wraysburybaits #totalcarp #ukcarp #lakelife



### Alfie Clarke catch report

Baden Birthday Banger! A birthday that Alfie Clarke won't forget in a hurry! Whilst fishing a two-day social at Baden Hall Fisheries for his 20th, the unthinkable happened on the first morning when he slipped his net under one of the biggest fish in the lake! A simply unreal winter capture of 45lb 8oz that was nailed on a 15mm Pink Hit N Run pop-up over a bed of Sweet Tiger & Corn boilies soaked in the matching liquid and Evolution Hemp Oil. A new PB by more than 15lb as well - take a bow mate!

#dynamite #dynamitebaits #hitnrunpopups #sweettigerandcorn #badenhall



### Perry on the Charge with Massive Monks Common

Perry Alabaster has certainly got the wind in his sails over at Monks Pit, continuing his run of form with the capture of one of the largest commons in the lake!

"I had every swim on the lake to choose from when I got to the lake, so I opted for the peg I'd caught from over the last couple of weeks," said Perry.

"I had a nice-looking 24lb 4oz mirror on a Crayfish wafter after about an hour, then a short while later had a common known Jutt's, which was nearly twice as big as the first fish at exactly 48lb!"

"The big 'un fell to a S7 Hard Hooker over Secret 7 chops, hemp and Crayfish Maxi Mix pellets. Buzzing!"

Later that night, Perry also added a 38lb 2oz mirror to his tally on the Secret 7 rod.

SECRET 7

The instant bait  
Krill meal-based fishmeal  
Packed full of spices and salts  
Peach and sweet orange flavour

#dnamonkspit #dnabaits  
#redefiningquality #secret7  
#theinstantbait #carp  
#carpfishing #carpangling  
#carplife #carpwatch  
#carpangler #fishing  
#angling #carpy #thatscarpy  
#karpervissen #karpervisser  
#karpfenangler  
#karpfenangeln #carphunter  
#carpyshots #carpyscenes  
#carpyness #carpyporn  
#bigfish #commoncarp  
#mirrorcarp #bigcarp







### Rob Drinkwater catch report

So, bite at first light this morning.. what started as a drop back turned into the indicator being pulled up tight. After lifting into it I knew a fish was on but was coming towards me at speed....reeling as hard as I could I still wasn't really feeling connected to it....as it hit the marginal shelf it kicked a few times, at which point I would have sworn it was a stockies.....then all of a sudden it absolutely flat rodded me to my right and went on a mental 40 yard plus run! I'm now thinking this isn't no stocky!! for the next 10 minutes it beat me up left to right with the same sort of runs...slowly it gave up little by little and made its way up in the water. After a few more turns and tussle it was ready for then net....i had a feeling I've had this fight before and sure enough. It was the incredible invincible!! I was lucky enough to catch it last summer at a spawned-out weight of 31lb this time she was looking Fat!! On the scales she went 37lb.14oz a top weight for this up-and-coming fish.. it just so happened that I had Michael Bromfield in the swim next door.. a quick ask for some pics had Mike offering to take some pictures with his camera... and if you know his talented work you couldn't ask for more!! Out of this world pictures buy the man...many thanks Michael!!



### New PB for Ollie Reardon

Young Ollie Reardon had a purple session this weekend on Linear Fishery bagging himself 2 x 40+ carp with one a new PB at 45lb 10oz Most fish coming on spinners but the 45 came on a zig fished at 9.5 ft. Not bad for a winter session!! #CygnnetTackle #CygnnetIndication #CygnnetLuggage #CygnnetTT #Cygnnet5for4



### Tom Maker catch report

The weather has been so up and down it's been hard work of late, but this week we had some stable weather and it was nice to finally get an area rocking, after a very successful night on manor, I decided on a move over to B1, more so just to get some bait out and fish at long range again (bit rusty after a few outings with Cecil) and I certainly didn't leave disappointed – multiple bites over my two-night trip including fish of 31, 32, 33, 35, 36, 37 and a 40lb 4oz mirror, which was also one I hadn't caught before so that was a result although I must say this mid-30 scaly was the pick of the bunch. Linear Fisheries Official







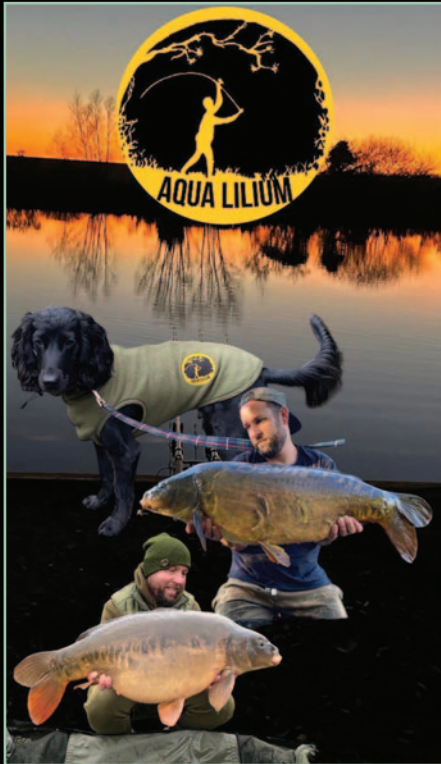
### Peter Con and son catch report

Another great day with my son. One of my targets for this year was for my son to get a new pb. Well today he has done it twice. 1st a 13lb 6oz mirror. Then a 14lb 13oz common. Managed a couple myself. All on the cygnet size 8 clinga hooks on ronnie rigs. Trimmed down pear drops pop up over glugged wicked whites from madbaits and a nice helping of hemp from carpparticlesuk.



# AQUA LILIUM CLOTHING

## NEW PRODUCTS



Here at Aqua Lilium clothing, we pride ourselves on bringing the best quality clothing to our customers. Not only do we have our award winning designs in the range, we are excited to be introducing two brand new fresh off the press designs coming to you soon.



The first design is, actually I personally love this design and it's taken me 6 months to complete. I am a lover of original tackle and have taken inspiration from a Centre pin reel. For those of you that are not familiar with the reel, they are mostly used for trotting along slow moving rivers. However for me, I use mine for stalking carp in the edge and believe me when I say, when a carp takes, its mayhem. It's a different feeling from your conventional big pit reel, and it's always fun when you place your thumb on the reel to slow the fish down. Often losing the skin off your thumb. Some people will say, why the roulette wheel around the outside? I believe a lot of angling is always a bit of gamble, so why not combine the 2? That's how the design 'against all odds' was born.



Design 2: This has the Aqua Lilium font coloured in a superb Aqua marine backed with a yellow shadow. As you have seen in our previous designs, we are renowned for our vibrant colours to ensure you stand out from a crowd and this is no exception. We have used the existing logo to create a multi coloured centre piece with an amazing effect.





# DOG COAT



Aqua Liliium clothing, also have a very special member in the team. It's quite simple really, we don't go fishing without him. His actually getting quite famous these days and we are lucky to have him. His name is Monty the Carp catching spaniel and his welfare, is just as, if not more important than ours. Because his part of the Aqua Liliium journey, means he needs his own clothing range. We/ I think this is one of the best items in the range and Monty is proud to launch his very own bivy coat, The Full Monty. We have taken a lot of care when designing the full Monty and believe this will also go on to be award winning. The coat itself, is made using a warm stretchy material with a zip running the length of the back. The coat is designed to be worn semi tight to your best friend's body still allowing he or she to move freely. We know there are dogs that truly do not like wearing coats and this is because most dog coats are too loose on the dog, and the dog finds this irritating. Aqua Liliium clothing have trialled the coat on all different dogs and I can honestly say every dog has carried on with their business as usual. There will be all sizes available from extra small to 3xl and a size chart will be available on the website.



Can I take the opportunity to thank everybody who has supported us over the last 8 months, I know it's not easy at the moment for most and we will continue to bring you quality clothing at the best possible price.

*Aqua  
Liliium*

Website: [www.aqua-liliium-clothing.co.uk](http://www.aqua-liliium-clothing.co.uk)

Email: [aqualiliiumclothing@hotmail.com](mailto:aqualiliiumclothing@hotmail.com)

Tel: 07854629130

You can also reach us through our Facebook and Instagram pages.



## Our monthly reviews on products currently on the market

### In this issue:

- Hotspot Design
- HayMax
- Klean Kanteen
- CarpLounge Tackle



### Hotspot Design – Ocean Performance

Sea anglers expect the best. That's why the Ocean Performance Collection is technically advanced and fashion forward, it's tailored for higher expectations; with the long-lasting performance you trust, and details that demand attention.

The Ocean Performance boardshorts are designed for warm weather anglers, ultra-comfy and featured by a superior fabric and advanced technologies who







guarantee a maximum protection even in the most extreme conditions.

(UPF 50+, water repellency and quick dry, 4 way stretch, stain guard coating, adjustable waistband, abrasion resistant, pockets).

The Ocean Performance collection is not only made of superior fabric and advanced technologies, it is a stylish collection who will allow you to get the perfect outfit for your fishing sessions. ■



## ***Carp Humour***

**They call  
me 007**





## Sneezea scare the fish away!

**Don't Let the Sneezes Scare the Fish Away This Summer** Summer hay fever can be a real misery for anglers, with grass pollen being the main culprit.

Its unpleasant symptoms can go on to affect performance and enjoyment of the sport. And scaring the fish away with that annoying sneeze is a real pain. However, there are some simple things you can do to help. Airborne allergens expert, Max Wiseberg, gives his top tips...

The grass pollen season usually starts in May with peaks in June and July. Around 95% of hay fever sufferers are allergic to grass pollen, which causes very unpleasant symptoms in the sufferer including sneezing, a runny nose, a stuffed up nose, itchy and watery or streaming eyes, nasal congestion and a general stuffed up feeling in the nose and throat.

Some people also experience itching around the face and mouth including an itchy mouth, itchy roof of mouth, and a burning sensation in the throat. Headaches and wheezing can also occur. "Prevention is better than cure," says airborne allergens expert, Max Wiseberg, "so helping stop the pollen from getting into your body in the first place is a good strategy."

"Tie your hair up and wear a hat or cap while out fishing to prevent pollen particles being caught in your hair."

"Use an organic drug-free allergen barrier balm such as HayMax ([www.haymax.biz](http://www.haymax.biz)), which can be applied to the nostrils and bones of the eyes in the morning and throughout the day. HayMax has been proven to trap over a third of pollen particles before they enter the body [1] where they can cause symptoms."

"Wear wraparound sunglasses

whilst angling to prevent pollen particles coming in contact with your eyes."

"Try to time your fishing so it's not when pollen counts are highest, during the peak morning and evening periods. Pollen is released early in the morning then travels upwards as the air warms up. In the evening, as the air cools, it moves back down again and the pollen grains reach nose height. Symptoms are usually worst at these times, so avoid going outdoors then."

"Change your clothes when you return home and wash your face or take a shower to wash away allergens so that they can't cause a reaction. A cool compress will soothe sore eyes."

"Dry your clothes indoors rather than on an outdoor clothes line to stop pollen being blown onto it by the outside wind."

"Stay hydrated and eat lots of fruit and vegetables to stay healthy and support your immune system."

"If your symptoms are particularly severe or the pollen count is particularly high, or you find that one product is not enough or stops working, you could try creating your own Hay Fever First Aid Kit."

I suggest that your ideal Hay Fever First Aid Kit will consist of one or more natural products, such as HayMax, only one antihistamine, only one steroid nasal spray and eye drops. Never take two antihistamines together, never take two steroid nasal sprays together, and consult your pharmacist or doctor if you are already taking any other medication."

[1] Chief Investigator: Professor Roy Kennedy, Principal Investigator: Louise Robertson, Researcher: Dr Mary Lewis, National Pollen and Aerobiology Research Unit, 1st February 2012. About Max Wiseberg Max Wiseberg is a lifelong hay fever sufferer and airborne allergens expert (including hay fever, dust, pet, mould allergies and air pollution). He is a trusted expert who can provide in-depth comment with extensive knowledge on both conventional and complementary forms of treatment, practical lifestyle advice, as well as information and facts surrounding airborne allergens. Max is regularly quoted in the press, in publications including The Telegraph, The Times, Daily Mirror, Daily Express, The Sun, Woman's Own, Daily Star, The Sunday Post, Country Living, Running Fitness, The Practising Midwife and numerous pharmacy magazines.

Max has been interviewed on BBC Radio 2's Jeremy Vine, LBC and Sky News. He is also a popular regular guest on BBC Three Counties radio and has featured on the Zoe Ball Breakfast Show and James Whale (talkRADIO). He has also appeared on BBC radio, many local radio stations, as well as The Chrissy B Show, Fitness TV and the Holiday & Cruise channel.

For further information, interviews or images, please contact: Ian and Jenny Liddle, Excellart, 01450 219 246, [ian@excellart.co.uk](mailto:ian@excellart.co.uk), [jenny@excellart.co.uk](mailto:jenny@excellart.co.uk), [www.facebook.com/Excellart](http://www.facebook.com/Excellart), [www.twitter.com/excellart](http://www.twitter.com/excellart).

## Carpy Humour





# Klean Kanteen – Insulated TKPro 25oz (750ml)



Feature-rich versatility in a streamlined form. The TKPro is a high-performance, plastic-free thermal Kanteen. With its integrated double-wall stainless steel cup and 360-degree pour-through functionality, the TKPro features our new TK Closure™ internal thread design which provides cutting edge thermal performance for both

hot and cold beverages. Whether sipping hot coffee miles from the nearest road or pouring ice cold cocktails in the heart of the city, the TKPro is your built-to-last solution.

## 100% Plastic-Free

Stainless steel and silicone construction. Electropolished 18/8 food-grade stainless steel interior doesn't retain

or impart flavors.

- Stainless Steel Cup and Cap
- Integrated double-wall construction cup. Twist and pour cap with 360° pour-through design.

## Cup Capacity:

- 16oz (0.5L): 7.3oz cup (216ml)
- 25oz (0.75L) and 32oz (1 L): 10.3oz cup (305ml) 9







## CarpLounge RT7 Bait Boat and All in 1 Controller

Fans of social media cannot possibly have missed the meteoric rise to fame of German tackle company 'CarpLounge Tackle' and their state-of-the-art bait boats which have taken the UK market by storm.

CarpLounge are here to stay, opening their first mega-store in Basildon Essex and making a huge impact at the UK carp shows recently.

Their new bait boat the RT7 and All in 1 controller is already making waves amongst top UK anglers, as it looks set to rule the waves in 2023.

Over the next few issues, we will be looking at what makes this boat unique amongst its rivals, putting the boat through its paces at the CarpLounge test lake in Essex and talking to James Armstrong about why he and so many top names are jumping ship to the RT7 for their carp angling this year.



### Why should I use a bait boat?

This month let's take a look at what some of the UK's top carp anglers say:

**Darrell Peck:** "If it's a new lake, you can learn a lot by driving around with the bait boat by using the echo sounder to get an idea of the topography and even see the fish on the Raymarine."

**Frank Warwick:** "Even when you are one of the World's best long-range casters, a bait boat could sometimes be an advantage."

**Ali Hamidi:** "Location is everything, the knowledge about the exact bottom course and the ability to quickly find a hot spot will definitely increase the catch rate."

**Alan Blair:** "No question a bait boat has its advantages: the placement of rigs and bait in hard-to-reach places, at night or over distances makes fishing more effective."

**Danny Fairbrass:** "There is no faster way to explore the ground structure of your lake effectively and in high detail. The precise GPS auto pilot makes it so easy to save nice features as a spot and bring the boat back automatically after a take – a huge advantage."

**James Armstrong:** "I have used a lot of bait boats in the past, but the clarity with this is outstanding!"

See the CarpLounge RT7 advert and see why this boat's special features put it at the head of the fleet.

Check out the website [www.carplounge.co.uk](http://www.carplounge.co.uk) and see them on Facebook. ■



Hit the play button to see the RT7 and All in 1 Controller in action.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J9XjABc5CPU&list=TLGcWvfWRDjWFwgyNDAzMjAyMw&t=21s>





# CARPLOUNGE RT7 BAITBOAT OUR MASTERPIECE



Introducing the next Level Carplounge Baitboat! The RT7 - a game-changing product that sets a new standard for high-end baitboats and industrial rovers. As the international market leader, we are committed to continuous innovation and are proud to unveil the RT7, a next-level baitboat that is sure to revolutionize the way you fish. With its advanced features and sleek design, the RT7 is a masterpiece that will take your fishing experience to new heights.



Check out the website [www.carplounge.co.uk](http://www.carplounge.co.uk) and see them on Facebook.



**Exclusive**

# Grenville 60!

By Roger Bacon





**H**e's done it! Roger Banks first sixty from Grenville! The undisputed master of Grenville, Roger Bacon, has landed his first 60-pounder from the incredible Cambridgeshire syndicate water.

Not only that, but the 60lb 8oz mirror was a brand-new sixty for the venue, which just keeps going from strength to strength.

A delighted Roger said to us: "I can't believe it! I'm absolutely buzzing. My first-ever sixty and, what's more, I got to share the moment with DNA director, Steve Carrie."











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LANTERNS

**POWERUP** CATCH **BIG**  
ENJOY **NATURE**  
STAY **SAFE**







Heavy baiting is usually the key to success on Grenville, owing to its incredible stock of large, hungry carp.

Roger said: "I started with 20kg of 8mm and 12mm Bug freezer boilies, which I had pre-soaked in Bug Liquid Food for two days, my go-to tactic on Grenville. The fish soon got on the bait and by the time the sixty came along, I had caught nine to 46lb-plus, the rest of them made up of 30-pounders.

"Keeping the bait going in, I felt hopeful that something really special would happen and so it did. After being fortunate enough to catch so many fifties from the venue, all that was missing was a sixty – and there it finally was. Absolutely made up!"

Il Roger's fish succumbed to his beloved Pink Peril pop-ups on long blow-back rigs fished over the baited area of Bug goodness.

#### The Bug

The insect-meal bait

Creamy, chocolate-malt flavour

Highly digestible year-round bait

Calanus Hydro used in liquid food

Sustainable ingredients. ■





# Burgfield Gold Lake

By James Walford

I had been fishing a few socials over on blue pool on the burgfield complex and each time noticed a smaller more intricate water just behind the fence and bushes of blue pool.

I later found out that was available to book also, had a lower stock of fish around 100 fish to 40lb including 15 or so 30s so a good head of fish for the size of the venue, the lake was itself is very different to the blue pool with its steeped margins, gold had gradual sloped margins, gin clear water, weed beds, gravel spots, lilly pads and several bays almost offerinf everything in a scaled down version,

I like to do a few socials a year atleast , with good mates with the chance to catch few nice fish aswell as having some great food and catching up and enjoying it as its a different kind of vibe to your typical syndicate trip etc

After flicking through all the pics i

could find i picked out few of the "a-team" to try target every time i managed to get down to fish, the lake was always good for few bites no matter what swim you ended up but always would require a little bit of effort put, the lake itself has very low light levels as mainly wrapped in trees but once you see one you seem to start more once your eyes have adjusted

A few trips in over couple years id say, id always done well caught fish to 32+ a few old characters but not the top 2 mirrors i was after.

I always had quick chat with the bailiff pry him for any and as much info as possible to learn a bit more and gauge weights of fish and flick through pics. He mentioned to me there was def a 30+ common on there seen from the boat but necver been out to his knowledge, this was pretty cool as majority of the stock were mainly mirrors.

On that session id had a bit of interest from the crays so decide to deploy

a 22mm hookbait to deter them best i could, fished ot the bottom of a shelf on an entrance to the out of bounds bay. That night around 3am i had a savage one toner on thar rod and remember the fish scrapped really hard seemed like forever but prob 10 minutes, i peered into the net and was starring at what looked like a 30lb common whih indeed it was.

Very clean and very crisp looking fish, id only just been told the story the evening before and couldnt belive my luck i had another fish the following night a lovlet upper 20 mirror very dark in colouration and that was it for that trip but felt like i was understanding it more and more each time and would always conjour preconceived plans for swims each time. You could have fish in the edge or catch them aver plenty of bait also so was nice to have the options

We had done few trips now and still never seen the biggun on the bank in any of our sessions around 40lb a lov-







ley long mirror with just few scales that trip i ended up in a swim which is suited to fishin short to reed bed and not really a "baiting" swim, id just aquired a bushwhacker so was keen to put it too some use, i deployed the

1st rod tight to reed bed which i already knew had steep gravel shelf against and witg the spoon i slid under a few collapsed reeds which wouldnt of been possible casting, wafter on a d rig and few crumbed

baits keep it simple, that evening the bobbin pulled tight and after a short dogged fight i slipped a good fish in the net, to my suprise it was the big-gun taking only few rod lengths out to a spot i imagine most ignore, she was







down a little at 37lb 12oz but i couldnt give a f\*ck! Was an amazing and was truly buzzing to of caught her, me and mate drank plenty of kraken rum that night with the tunes on and a pukka bbq.

There was still a big lin that avoidin us all as group never seen it in the water or on the bank was the last one

i dearly wanted but thought chances where slim turning up on a select few days and hoping that fish would make an appearance. The 1st 24 hours was slow so i was getting a bit restless, stood in the swim nextdoor n couldn't believe my luck the fish where using this channel happily as was free of lines.

I deployed a solid bag on the low lying weed next door, was suprised to hear it rattle off and gave me savage battle all the way to the net, when my mate slipped the net under we both shouted like big kids "its the lin" "its the lin" an absolute worldy of linear the jewel in the crown of gold lake .





# Oak Lakes Fisheries

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



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



Some recent catches before our Pike fishing season closed. Ten pike and five perch in a day session.



Various carp caught by Ricky Collett on Pipe Lake recently. The weights were 29lbs 3oz, 28lbs 11oz, 23lbs, 8oz 21lbs 8oz and 15lbs 3oz.



## Lake Prices

### Day ticket lake – Oak Lake

– £10 a day and £20 for 24 hours.

**Predator Lake** – Prices are the same as the day ticket lake for pike during the winter – £20 a day and £30 for 24 hours for catfish in the summer.

**Match Lake** – £6 for one rod and £10 for two rods.



# The Winter Diary

**Part 3 by Mark and Emma Rose**

**W**ith experiencing some success on the first two trips of the 'Winter Ticket', we thought our luck was due to run out. But with the weather forecast showing unseasonable temps and wet and windy conditions (almost questioning your sanity 'weather'!), I have to say, spirits were high and with the car loaded, one way or another we were about to find out.

This trip would see us in different pegs again. Pegs 3 and 4.

It was peg 3, where my first ever trip to 'Festival Fishery' took place earlier in 2022, which was in a previous article, 'Inside Out'. And with it being my first Birthday trip, I've been able to do in over 10 years, Emma was nice enough to allow me to choose first, which swim I wanted to fish.

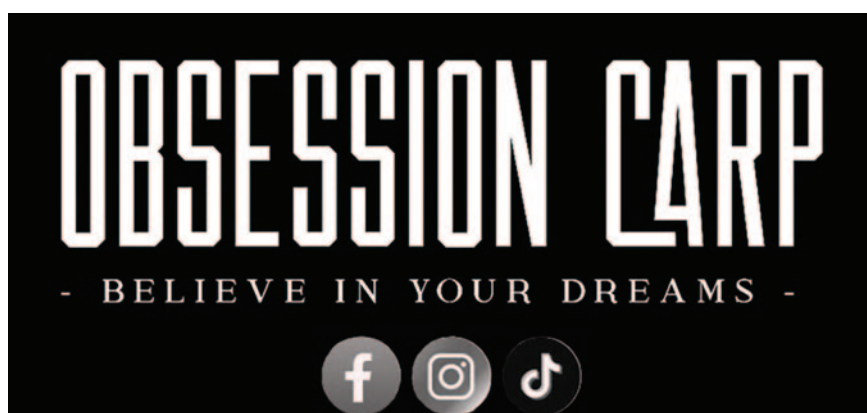
The short journey seemed to take an age, with temporary roadworks seemingly set up everywhere. But eventually we found ourselves locking the gate behind us, as we pulled into the car park for our third trip of the ticket.

We were surprised to see that no one was on the section we were booked to fish and after a quick wander down to our allocated swims, were met by a good mid twenty, launching itself clear into the air and crashing back down, creating a mass vortex of water. (Not a bad way to be greeted at the backend of November, that's for sure).

Similar to the Pegs in the previous trip, Peg 3 is a more intimate section of water, which I prefer, with Peg 4 commanding a much larger area.

With the first show of Carp you would have thought that would have made my Peg choice a lot easier, but unfortunately it was pretty much bang dot between both Pegs. After a little discussion, I opted to return to Peg 3 with Emma happy to go in (where she had originally hoped to go), Peg 4.

As we started the dreaded unload,







which however much we cut back on, always seems like we could fill an artic lorry, my thoughts turned very quickly to strategies for the session ahead.

A lot of my prep and thoughts are done in the comfort of my home and with the weather still looking good especially for the time of year, I still took into account the ever-changing light levels and drop in temperature of the lake water.

A quick test with the hand, confirmed the temp had definitely dropped since our last trip and with that in mind, simple tactics of 'Carp Craze' PVA Wide Mesh and Solid Bags, combined with 'Bait Guru' Salamino Pellet and Stick Mix on a couple rods and the 'Bait Guru' Jungle Pellet and Stick Mix on the other, would be the way forward, adding a small scattering of boilies over our areas, which would allow us to top up

if we started to get any action.

With everything set up and ready to go, the customary cold beer went down a treat as we both sat watching for any more signs, leaving casting out to later in the evening just before dark.

With the rods eventually out on the spots, it was time to sit back, chill out and enjoy a good homemade Chilli con Carne. With the weather set to take a turn for the worse, with gusty









# BIG CARP TOP TEN

## Carp Fisheries



Web: [cottingtonlakes.co.uk](http://cottingtonlakes.co.uk)  
Email: [cottingtonlakes@outlook.com](mailto:cottingtonlakes@outlook.com)  
Tel: 01304 380691



winds and rain on the forecast, we were pretty optimistic going into our first night and to be fair, was shell shocked when the sunrise was upon us, without even the slightest of indications between us.

With a slight chill in the air and Emma still in her bag, keeping warm. I decided to put a dozen or so 'Bait Guru' Salamino Mk2 boilies over two of my three spots just to get some more attraction in the area.

Just a few minutes later, 'Usain Bolt', sorry, Emma, came flying out of her bivvy, with the Delkim, in full on overdrive. This fish meant business and just as Emma was gaining ground the line decided to loop up and go behind the spool. Argh! Emma kept as much pressure on as she could whilst I removed the spool trying to sort out the bird's nest and tangles left behind. But as I was doing so the carp had found sanctuary in the far margin reed bed.

I quickly got it sorted and with Emma thinking the fish had done her, I took the rod and with a little steady pressure could feel through the line that the fish was still on. Slowly walking backwards, with a little tension applied, it wasn't long until the Carp was out and the rod back in Emma's hands.

Disaster averted!

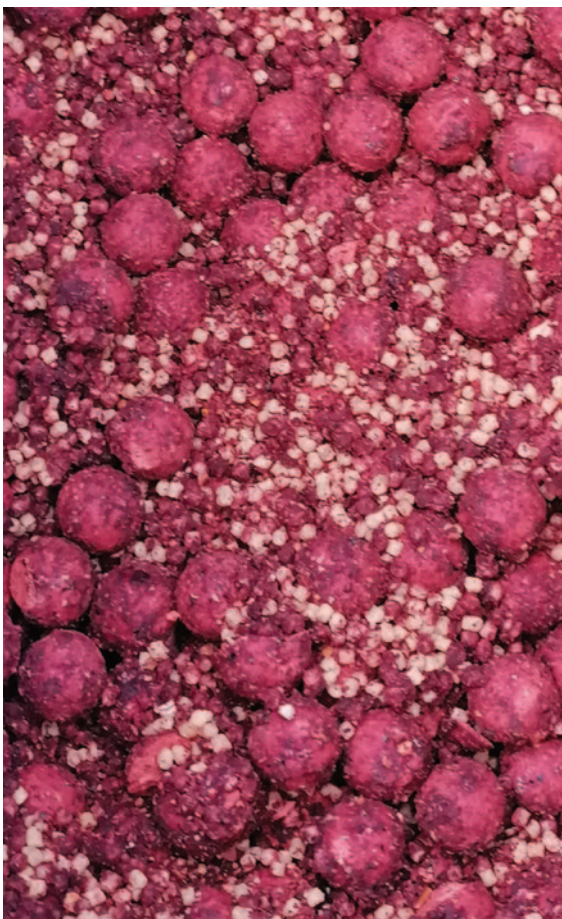
After that, it was a game of tug and war, until finally, we got our first sighting of the culprit. With a little more back and forth, of the Carp not wanting to give up and lose this battle, I eventually slid the net gently under this stunning creature and looking over at Emma, (who I'm not sure, was relieved, shocked, exhausted or all three) looked a bit bemused.

Myself, on the other hand, knew that this Carp was something a little special and was certainly going to smash her PB out of the park. Once in the Sling, Emma lifted it on to the scales and at that moment the sheer weight of this stunner, sunk in! I quickly took it off her to hold and with the scales ending up on a 30lb 6oz, not only was it a new PB, but a 5 year mission that had started with her last PB done and dusted.

With the pictures done and the warning of a PB bucket on the cards, I felt it was only fair to be kind and let her off (after all it was baltic). What a way to start my Birthday trip!







Being it was a bit early to celebrate with a little tipple, a plain old coffee would have to make do and with me on the duties, whilst Emma got her rod back out, my thoughts turned to my swim.

I decided to leave the rods in situ and redo them at around 2pm and then leave them until the following day, unless something told me otherwise.

As the morning flew by and with the rods rebaited, 2 on the ever-faithful Bait Guru 'Salamino' High Class and the 3rd with a 'Salamino' DB Wafter, all with 'Carp Craze PVA Products' Wide Mesh Bags of matching Stick and Pellet coated in Liquid Food, all were back out on their spots.

As we both sat enjoying a much-needed coffee, I was interrupted by my middle rod, with a single bleep and a slow drop back, with then the bobbin shooting up, almost being attached to the underside of my rod.

With no delay, I was quickly on it and attached to my first of the trip. This one decided to play nice, albeit plodding back and forth about halfway across, before finally gliding smoothly over my net cord.

A quick peek in the net revealed another stunning Mirror, that eventually went 23lb 10oz on the scales. I was nothing less than relieved. The pressure was off! Phew!

The fish had fallen, yet again, for my almost go to choice, where possible, of a 'Salamino' High Class coated in the 'Mexi-Can' Halo.

I decided not to recast the rod straightaway, due to my right hand rod being quite close, so as not to disturb any other fish that may have been in the area. But with nothing coming to avail, a quick refresh on all three was needed just before dark.

After demolishing a nice Bacon and Cheese Panini, washed down with a couple of bottles of Beer, it was time to battle down the hatches, as the first of the predicted storms finally started to vent its anger.

To say the night was a sleepless one, would be an understatement and it wasn't down to catching fish that's for sure.

By 10.30am we started to see the odd sign of fish coming back into the area, with the odd flicker on the far Reed lined margin and my beliefs were about to be proved right, when









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the same rod, as the previous day sprung into life.

I was fooled into believing this was a tench to start with, until half way through the battle Mr Carp decided to wake up and tried to take me under the trees, on the left hand margin of my swim.

Luckily for me, it didn't succeed, and I soon found myself slipping the net under a stunning 22lb 12oz Mirror, and Yes! you guessed it, 'Salamino' High Class coated in 'Mexi-Can' Halo, yet again doing the damage.

For Emma, even though still on a high from the previous day, was finding her water to be somewhat trickier and hadn't even had a single bleep since her PB.

As the night quickly drew in, after an uneventful afternoon and with the rods all redone. We sat back to watch for any tell-tale signs of any Carp in our area. With the light gone I decided to finish Part 2 of this article (Feb 2023 issue), whilst Emma got stuck into a James Patterson book.

The weather was a strange one with a massive drop in temp and heavy thundery downpours thrown



in, just for good measure. It was definitely going to be a long one.

As soon as I pulled the zip up on my sleeping bag, I was straight back out, as quick as I had got in, with my right-hand rod screaming into full motion, the Delkim brightly lighting up the darkness around us.

Another spirited battle ensued and before long and a Mirror this time, weighing 22lb 2oz, was in my hands, having its photo taken, aided by the trusty 'Rhino Tech' adjustable Beam V5 light, to combat the perfect "cool and warm" subtle night shot.

A little change from Bait Guru's 'Salamino' Dumbbell Waffer to a Round 15mm version, had done the trick on this occasion. By the time the fish had been returned, Emma was already back in her bivvy, whilst myself on the other hand was busy re-wrapping the rod to get it back out perfectly, on the spot.

After that, I decided to sit in my doorway and watch the water for an hour or so, whilst enjoying a couple coffees, that I would later regret, with multiple piddle breaks needed, just as I was beginning to warm back up, every time (Will I ever learn? lol)!

The night passed by uneventfully and after a pretty much carbon copy of the day before, (coffee, rig tying, coffee, bag tying and then just lots more coffee, coffee, coffee...) I was glad when the sound of the ever-faithful Delkim receiver was once again in full flow.

Yet again it was my middle rod that was away and after guiding it away from the snags and being in control, a lovely pale flank, broke the flat calm surface. It was soon safely in the bottom of my landing net and soon the needle was going round to 22lb 12oz of pristine Mirror Carp, with Bait Guru's High Class 'Salamino' in the 'Mexi-Can' yet again. Result!

With the fish photographed and safely returned to the murky depths, our peace was soon to be shattered, just 30 minutes later. But this time it was one of Emma's rods in full free flow.

With adrenaline bouncing between us, Emma quickly lifted into the fish and was soon attached to a Carp that certainly knew where all the emergency exits were. Everytime Emma gained a few yards this one would take it back and more. Finally, after a 10 minute battle of cat and mouse,



Emma soon had the upper hand and as the fish came to the surface, we were met with the sight of a lovely Common, which for this venue certainly get outnumbered by the Mirrors.

With everything wetted, zeroed and ready to go, the sling was hoisted off the mat and another 21lb fish and Emma's 2nd of the trip, was the carp culprit. Lured to the hook, by Bait Guru's 'Jungle' Highclass Hookbait, topped with an Orange Essential Fruit Tipper and the trusted UK man-

ufactured 'Carp Craze' Wide Mesh Bag of matching Pellet, Stick and Liquid Food over 20 or so freebies - Simple, but effective tactics, for fishing for a bite at a time, especially this time of year.

By now the light was fading, so we decided to refresh all the rods for the forthcoming evening, especially after the disturbance in the area from the two, closely banked, fish.

With a lovely Sausage Casserole on the go, we stood watching the beautiful magic of the sunset, knowing







that the weather was soon to turn gusty and wet from midnight. Not so good for us but great conditions for the fishing. These fish definitely seemed to respond to a heavy breeze/wind.

The night yet again passed by with nothing to report, apart from me getting battered by the storm all night. As for Emma who was tucked away and protected by the trees, she was blissfully unaware it had hit.

As the morning light rose, the wind and rain was relentless, so knowing the rods were on good spots and that by refreshing them we'd probably struggle to get them back out due to the conditions, we decided to leave in situ.

Just after 2pm, the first action of the day was upon us with my middle rod yet again providing the bite. This one felt a little different and I have to say felt like a much smaller stamp of fish. A feeling that was about to be dispelled!

Once in the net though, I could see it wasn't a baby at all and as the scales settled on 26lb 10oz of outstanding Mirror, I was over the moon





# FISHING RESORT



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with my 5th 20lb plus fish of the session. Happy days to say the least.

The 'Salamino' High Class was definitely doing the business for me on this trip, as apart from the one on the Round Wafter, all the others had fallen to it, employing the same tactic on every rod of a small 'Carp Craze' PVA Wide Mesh Bag with matching Stick and Pellet Mix soaked in Liquid Food over a small scattering of the 'unbelievable, catching machine boilie' Mk2, that's soon to be released. Trust me, when I say "The brains behind this Bait, (including the others in the Bait Guru' range) and the development process that is involved, brings the word 'Bait' to a whole new level.

Again like the day before, it was like London buses with Emma being in just 45 minutes later and after a very short battle the Mirror just over 15lb was weighed, pictured and returned to its watery home. The bite pattern had definitely been a very consistent pattern mainly coming between 12pm and 5pm.

As nightfall set in it was all quiet and flat calm with the temperature dropping rather sharply. So out came the Baileys for a lovely hot coffee. I have to admit heading into my bivvy for the night, I certainly wasn't feeling a bite was on the cards.

The morning was soon upon us and with the ever amazing Starlings flying past, first thing, did not disappoint. With fantastic patterns and formations across the sky as always. Mind you getting out of the way is definitely recommended unless you want to look like a statue in Trafalgar.

Just moments after the last flock had passed, my middle rod was away again. This definitely felt different to my previous captures and with this one holding deep, I knew I was attached to a good sized fish.

Constantly holding the bottom and turning very slowly, I played the fish in with as much caution as I could and after seeing the patterns, that this one was kicking up beneath the surface, I was just hopeful that nothing would go wrong.

Just 5 mins later and with expert netting duty from Emma, I looked into the net to see another stunning Mirror looking back at me, that was definitely over the 30lb mark. But little did I know!

With the fish now in the sling, I was soon to find out that it went a lot more











than 30lb, bottoming out on 37lb 4oz. What a result!

With the customary pictures done and a last look before it went off with a swoosh of its tale, I was over the moon with my capture. With breakfast demolished and a much-needed shower, we returned to our swims and after recasting our rods, we sat back to watch the water. It was then, I realized I recognised my morning capture.

After a quick check on the Fisheries social media page and a quick pm to a couple of the bailiffs, it was soon confirmed as one of the sought after members of the 'A' Team, known as 'Cut Tail'.

Yet again though, the tactics as of my previous captures on the Bait Guru's 'Salamino' High Class provided the edge.

The rest of the day passed by and as we said "goodnight" and parted ways back to our own bivvies, my thoughts turned to whether I would be lucky enough to catch a 'Birthday' fish.

The temp was dropping rapidly. A fine layer of ice was starting to form on everything and a thick fog/mist was descending upon us slowly, so it

wasn't looking promising.

The morning came and again, it was no surprise that it was a quiet one for both of us. With a Birthday brekkie of bacon and egg muffins, that Emma had slyly hidden as a surprise, on the go and a lot of Birthday wishes from family and friends coming through. I decided to put a pouch of 12 or so freebies over my middle and right-hand rod to try and get some flavour travelling through the water columns.

With a call arranged to our oldest son Toby, who lives in London about to start and the time already 1.30pm, it was certainly looking likely that my Birthday session wasn't going to result in the fish, I so hoped for.

But just 5 minutes into our catch up with Toby, a fish topped between our swims. As per the usual banter between myself and Emma, I jokingly made the comment "Here fishy, fishy, fishy!"

Well call it what you want, but within seconds, my right-hand rod sprung into life. What were the chances? The look on Emma's face, on the other hand, was priceless.....

With Emma telling our son that "Dad's alarm's off again!!", and telling

him we'd call back in 5, she joined me in my swim.

Again with it feeling like a fairly decent fish and with the nerves and pressure setting in, the battle shall we say felt like it took an age. But with





# The History of Carp Fishing in Oxfordshire

Paul Harris and Geoff Adams

Carp fishing has a very rich history. In the early days of it becoming popular, Kent and the Colne Valley were the hot beds of our fledgling pastime and of course there was the legendary Redmire Pool.

Into the new Millennium and one area above all others exploded onto the scene, this was of course Oxfordshire. The quality of the stock of carp in this county was incredible but where did these beautiful scaly beasts come from? When did the Leney's get stocked? What were the origins of the famous Linch Hill fish and what of the history of the now infamous Linear Fisheries? Over the course of the pages of this book all will be revealed as Paul and Geoff have put together the facts of how these lakes were stocked and also banded together many successful local anglers, some of which have never published any of their catches, who tell their fishing tales on these stunning lakes.

With more than 300 pictures of some of this country's finest ever carp and several full page maps, this huge volume tells the story of Oxfordshire's carp fishing history whilst still leaving a little bit of mystery for your imagination!

Included within the pages of this book is the foreword written by local legendary angler and former tackle dealer Joe Taylor. We have chapters from Paul Kitchin on the legendary Vauxhall Lake. David Brian Williams tells us the story of the lakes in the City of Oxford itself! Chris Robinson has written an incredible chapter on two of Dorchester's lakes. Orchid and The Lagoon. The history told in Chris' chapter on these lakes is just incredible and wait until you see the pictures!

Next door to The Lagoon is Dorchester's Alliance Club Lake and Joe Forrester tells his story of the incredible scaly carp that inhabited this lake and how he outwitted them.

We have a real coup in the fact that brilliant all-round Oxford angler John Everard agreed to be interviewed and he has an incredible amount of historical information to share, as has Gerald Stratford who is also included in this informative chapter.

No book about Oxfordshire's carp fishing history would be complete without the story of Oxford's first forty and what a story it is. Richard 'Paddy' Paradine has never written or published any of his catches before and we have his interview here for you of his historic catch which was kept under the radar for so long.

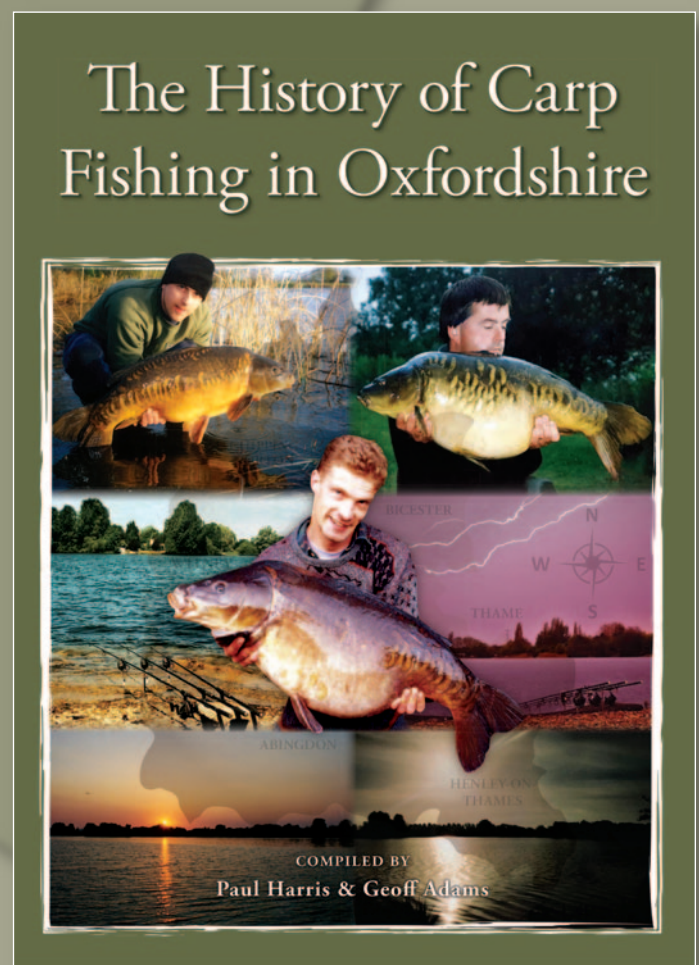
Nick Stansfield is a brilliant young Oxford carper who doesn't shout about his catches. We have two incredible chapters from him from two of the county's most iconic lakes, The Leisure Park and The Big S! Josh Chatfield has written a fantastic chapter which really gives you an insight into how fishing on The Leisure Park was back in the day when the Leney's were still about and culminates with his capture of The Big Leney at its biggest ever weight, the iconic 'Paddy's Fish'.

We have brilliant chapters on Newlands from Ginger Robinson and Milton Pools from Stuart Rothwell. Danny Aplin has written about his time on Linch Hill which will just blow you away! His pictures alone are worth purchasing this book.

Nick Franklin has written a lovely chapter on one of Oxfordshire's little known lakes and his account really hits home that carp fishing isn't always about the numbers game. Sometimes it's just you fishing for the unknown! There are superb chapters on Manor Farm from Paul Hathaway and St Johns from Stewart Roper.

If that wasn't enough Paul and Geoff have wrote chapters themselves which cover the stocking history of lakes, how the gravel company ARC played such a big part in the early stockings of Oxford's lakes, the early days of Linch Hill and Linear Fisheries and facts and stories regarding Oxford's other lakes, some very off the radar!

If you like your history, you like carp fishing and love stories of beautiful scaly carp, there is only one book to purchase this year. Here it is...



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**A V A I L A B L E   N O W**



Emma shaking her head and laughing at the fact I'd done it, sitting at my feet in the net was a stunning 27lb 8oz mirror but more importantly a 'Birthday' bonus.

With everything sorted out and a bit more of the usual banter between us, we quickly called our son back to finish our conversation. I believe his words were "Unbelievable!", lol.

The rest of the day was a quiet affair and I have to say tinned soup and no beer, was not the ideal birthday meal. But I wouldn't have changed it for the world. Sat, doing what I've loved doing for over 40 years, with my Wife by my side. Precious moments.....

As the final night was on us, my biggest hope was that Emma would get another, as her swim had definitely been harder going.

But with the weather very similar to the night before it wasn't to be and as we sat drinking our last coffee of the morning, before pack down, the realization set in that between us we'd had 2 x 30lb plus, 7x 20lb plus and a mid-double. Not bad for a 'Winter' session....

What can I say, to sum it up, It was a fantastic trip, with lots of memories made and lots of laughter and fun enjoyed, just the way fishing should be. Mind you, I soon came down to earth with a bump, when walking through the door, being greeted by our son Dom, saying "Old man, you know you're now closer to 50 than you are 40!"

Until next time be lucky and as we always say at 'Obsession Carp', "Believe in your Dreams!" ■







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# Milton Magic

By Oscar Thornton

**J**onny invited me down to the magical Milton Abbas for a couple of nights on a guesty! I set up in an area that clearly had a few fish about and went it with 15mm Cell straight out the bag, a bait that has served me time and time again, even in the coldest conditions.

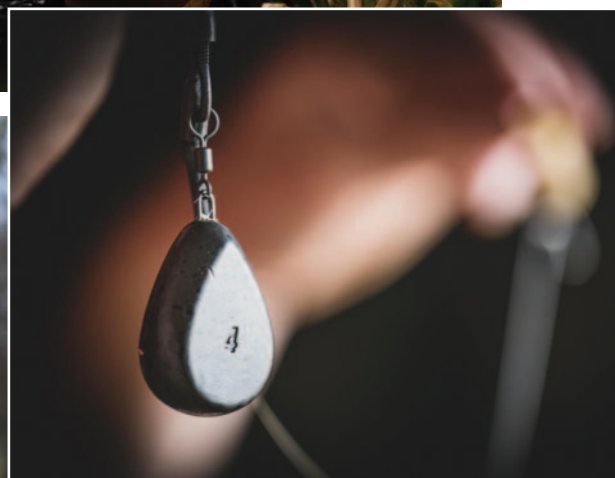
I kept things nice and simple and rigged up with IO2 D Rigs on each rod, using 21 turn knotless knots up the shank, forming a nice long D offering plenty of movement. Size 4 Kamakura Wide Gapes on 9-inch booms all that was needed, with my favoured big snowman hookbaits on each. 3 bait stringers completed the

traps, flicked onto a clear patch up against the weed where I spread a nice bed of boilie.

The trip started slow, but they soon turned up, where I managed 3 bites topped by mirrors of 36:14 and 32 with a lovely 12lb leather to back it up'. @oscarthornton2 #KordaMindset #TeamKorda #BigCarp. ■









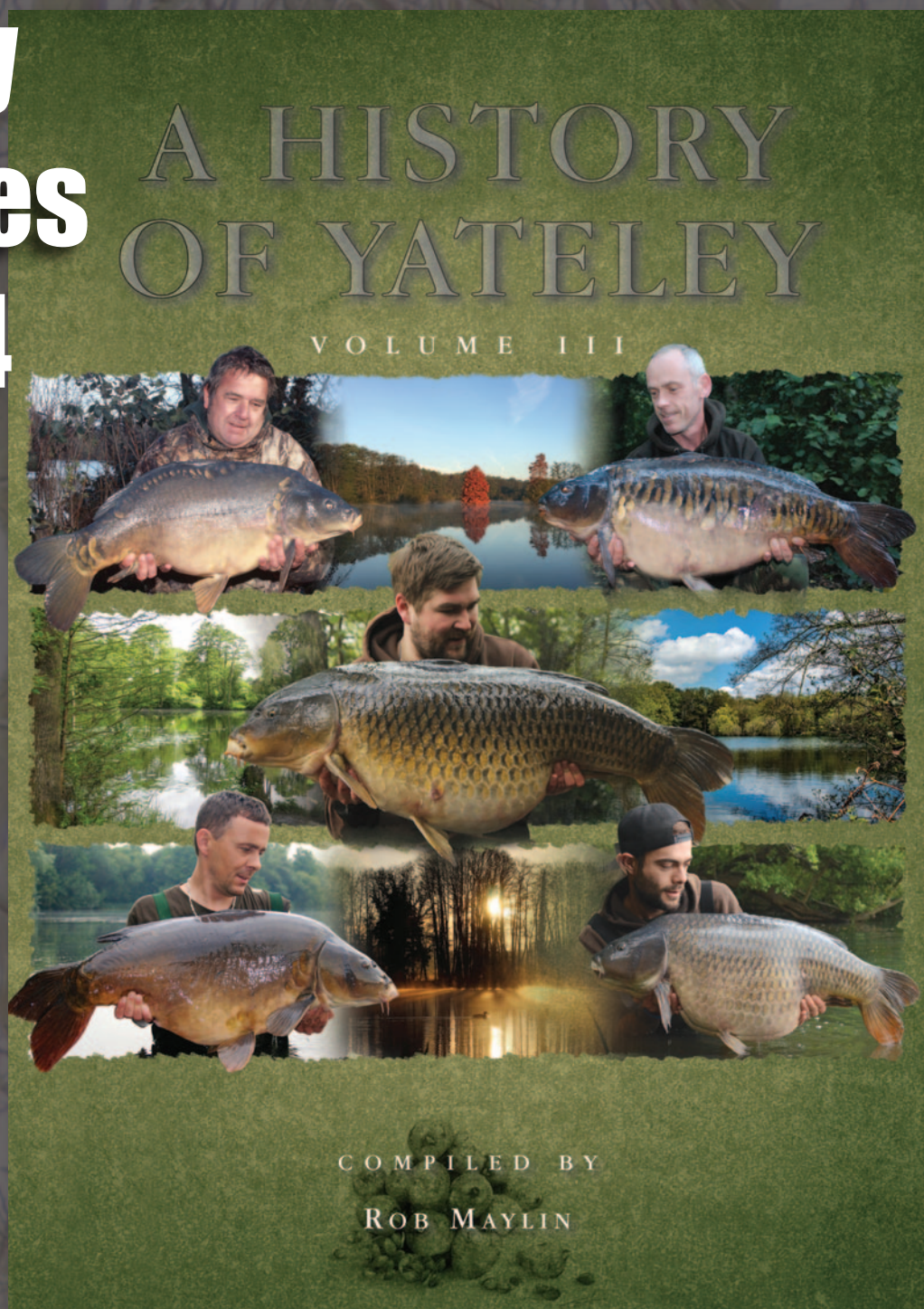
# Yateley Volumes 3 and 4

In the time since the Cemex sell-off, Yateley has had a new lease of life. Although those legendary carp like Basil, Heather and their buddies are now long gone, the new stock has grown and returned Yateley to its former glory. Likewise, its banks may not now be trodden by the likes of Terry Hearn and me, but the anglers that fish Yateley now are just as passionate about the Yateley carp as we were 20 years ago.

Every lake has come on leaps and bounds in this time: The North boasts commons up to 54lb with a handful approaching 50. The Car Park too has numerous good forties. The Split Lake is a real eye-opener with a good head of big fish up to 47lb! You would never have dreamed it. The Pad Lake, South Lake and even the diddy little Horseshoe and Pump House all contain big fish. The Pad has numerous forty-pluses.

Over the other side of the road there is a similar story: multiple forties in the Match, some beasts now in the Copse and The Nursery holding fish to 47lb and maybe bigger, as its anglers keep very secret squirrel about what goes on over there. The Nursery is certainly Yateley's secret jewel in the crown.

Hence the reason for this book... It's been six



years since the first two volumes, and the changes are phenomenal, the fish huge, and only living five minutes from the complex, I felt duty bound to record the history further on these lakes, the UK's true heritage waters. The format remains much the same: the page numbers continue through the volumes. Maybe in another ten years, there will be more history to record, even perhaps a Yateley British record... who knows? Now wouldn't that be something?

I have also decided to include the Yateley lakes on the edge of the old Cemex complex, these being Little Moulsham, Mill Lane, Swan Valley and Sandhurst. Each contain their own



treasures including a couple of fifties!

Because of the sheer size of this project and to do justice to all the lakes there will once again be two volumes.

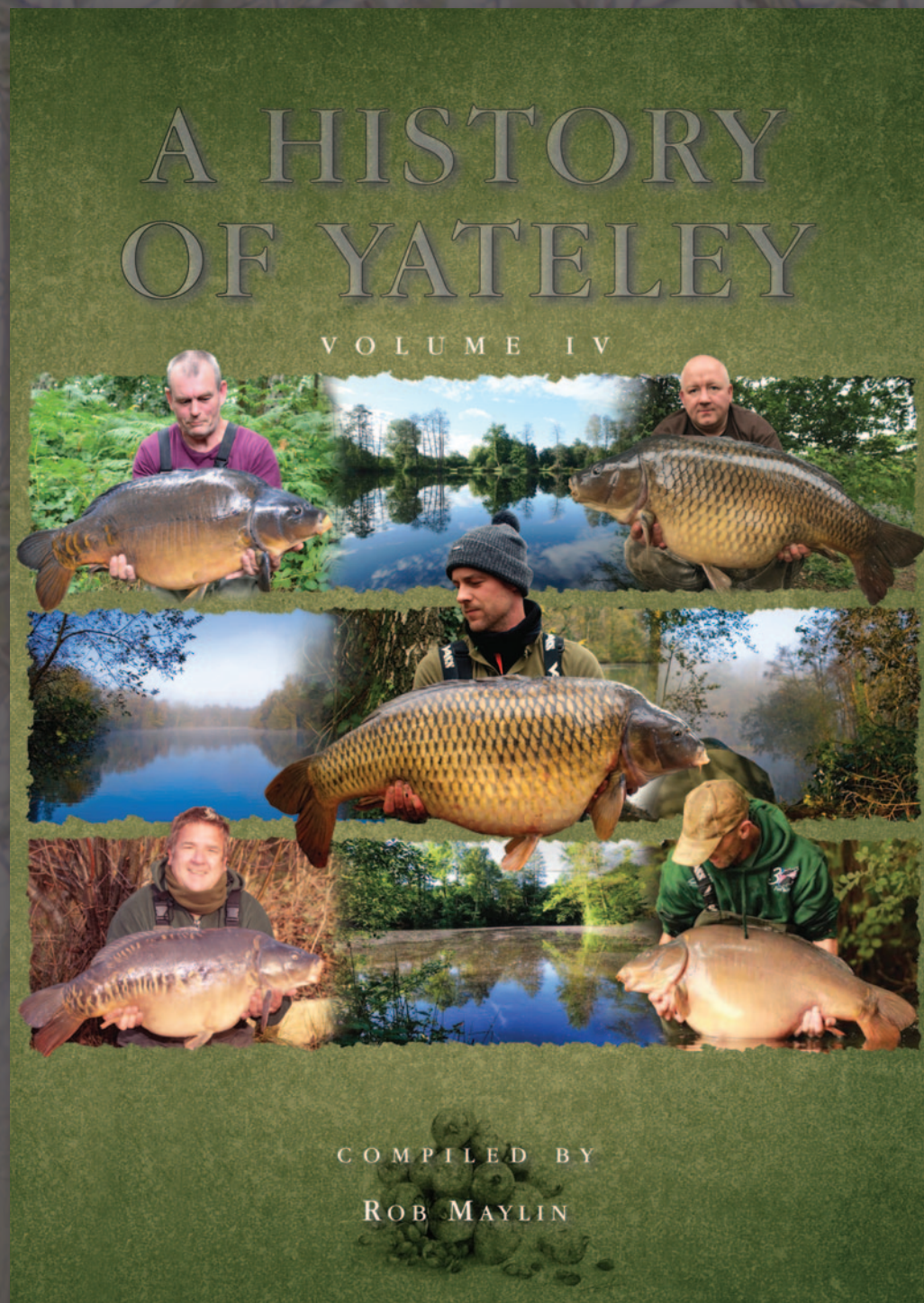
Volume 3 contains chapters on the North Lake, The Split Lake, Horseshoe and Pumphouse. The Pads Lake, Car Park, Moulsham and Mill Lane.

Volume 4 contains the chapters on The South Lake, Match Lake, Copse Lake, Nursery Lake, Sandhurst and Swan Valley.

There are some great introductory pieces from Martin Gardener, owner of Yateley West Fisheries and Ian Gray, Honorary Secretary of Farnham Angling Society, the owners of Yateley East, plus a chapter featuring the famous

Stoney and Friends MacMillan bashes each year. There are stock lists with photos of as many of the new residents as it was possible to get and chapters from the guys who fish there at present – ordinary guys with some great tales to tell of their captures on each of the lakes.

All this is combined with fantastic colour photography throughout, some amazing paintings of each lake and a host of special drawings commissioned for these volumes. These volumes are as much if not more of a work of art as the predecessors. The first two volumes were amazing and received worldwide praise... but dare I say, in my opinion, these two volumes could be even better? A massive thanks to all concerned, and long may Yateley continue! Long live the king of English carp fishing history!



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**Exclusive**

# Mystery and Adventure

By Matt Blake





**A**fter spending a few years flitting about park lakes and club waters fishing for the same old named carp as tom dick and harry the urge for a bit of mystery and adventure was calling and watching numerous films of huge carp on the continent, I just knew that was where I needed to be.

Almost by fate a space had become available for a trip to France with my good mate bill and some good lads from his syndicate to a lake that they had fished before with a good number of decent fish with all of them catching and would seem a great place to start my European love affair.

About 4 months before our trip we met up for a bite in the local Ringwood curry house for a catchup and the stories of giant carp and immense battles the buzz was almost unbearable but unfortunately as time came nearer there was a few complications with the birth of my son meaning id have to pull out of the trip witch i had been planning and prepping for over a year but what can you do family always first, but as if the carp gods were looking down on me the lads had asked me if i fancied a trip the year after to a slightly different lake with a completely different reputation where the first lake was not a runs water by any stretch but on its day you could have huge hits of epic fish whereas this new trip big hits of fish just don't happen maybe id bitten off more than i could chew with this one, bearing in mind the lake is all boat work (id never been in a boat) was described by the late Ian Mcmillian as "the weediest lake he'd ever seen (not much weed in the lakes i fish) id never used H-blocks, never used a prodding stick and certainly never used an echo finder even so the fear of the unknown was quickly over shadowed by the thoughts of mythical dark creatures gracing my landing net.

So, the time had come to finally make the drive across the channel for my first euro adventure with my good mate JB in the van we arrived in France and to say I was buzzing was an understatement lake upon lake upon lake welcomed us all the way to our first destination which was a 20 acre gravel pit the night before. A few beers BBQ and pasties later one of the



boys Scalsey caught a pb which was a class way to kick off the trip!

With a few pasties each under our belts spirits were high excitement was high but nothing and i mean nothing could prepare me for what i was about to witness, as the gates opened I've never heard such noises come out of 5 grown men before as we are greeted with what i can only describe as heaven, a mature gravel pit with huge Douglas fir trees surrounding the bank gin clear water with every imaginable strain of weed you can think of. This lake bursting with wildlife and with a kingfisher landing on a branch next to me I was hoping he would bring me good luck as I thought I'd need it.

After losing the draw me and JB decided to plot up on the far side witch happened to be the weediest end with canopy after canopy of weed and i mean every type of weed and foliage you can imagine with a 1 foot surface weed moving about covering any hope of finding holes in the thick under the surface weed so i decided to climb a tree too try and see any glimmer of hope, only to be greeted with guess what more weed! A few more minutes passed by when we both just laughed cracked a beer and prayed to the carp gods.

Like all carp anglers when faced with a challenge it's the unlocking of the code that keeps us coming back so that's all I kept thinking in my head keep positive and let's crack this code. Out in the boat however spots or what i perceived as spots became more apparent some dinner plate size

holes in the weed to as big as an umbrella sized ones but with solid walls of weed meant it was too dark to actually see the bottom in around 10 ft of water even with the aquascope and with the weed being practically to the surface the echo sounder was a no go too which only left me with a prodding stick witch in theory works great donking it on firm gravel until i found the sludgy stuff laavly jubly lob the H block down easy peasy 3 spots found bossh !!! Lucky for me just as i had dropped my last h block i was heading back to my swim something happened which changed my session completely, id knocked the prodding stick over board and it had gone straight through the thick 10ft weed to a CRACK on the gravel bottom with no resistance at all from the weed and with visibility in the holes only about 3 ft before it got to dark it suddenly dawned on me that i could potentially be in 7 ft weed.

Back to the bank to grab a rod with an old rig and have a donk about and sure enough yep two of the spots were just depression in the weed rather than pure holes. I eventually found two great spots about 30 yards out and a nice margin spot so I H-blocked them and decided to put a bit of bait out on them and leave the swim without lines for 24 hours. Each spot had maybe 20 boilies, one scoop of chilli hemp, one litre of liquid and a load of my fave dried daphnia from the CPUK boys. Not only did resting the swim take the pressure off the carp it gave me time to relax have a beer and get set up and make sure I



wasn't rushing to put rigs out which weren't 100%.

Having never been aboard id watched countless videos on European fishing and 95% of them when off a boat were lowering in your standard led clip with a snowman rig of some shape or form so I decided to go completely different and fish solid bags with 3 inch rigs to a drop off 8 oz inline fished to the edge of the hole closest to me in the soft stuff. With that evening consisting of an amazing BBQ a stunning sunset and of course a few beers I nodded off to the thoughts of what might be in there as the owner doesn't put many if any catch reports out there and not many pictures and it really does keep the mystic of the place intact.

Woken up at the crack of dawn to the chorus of birds then all of a sudden as I'm still coming around i can

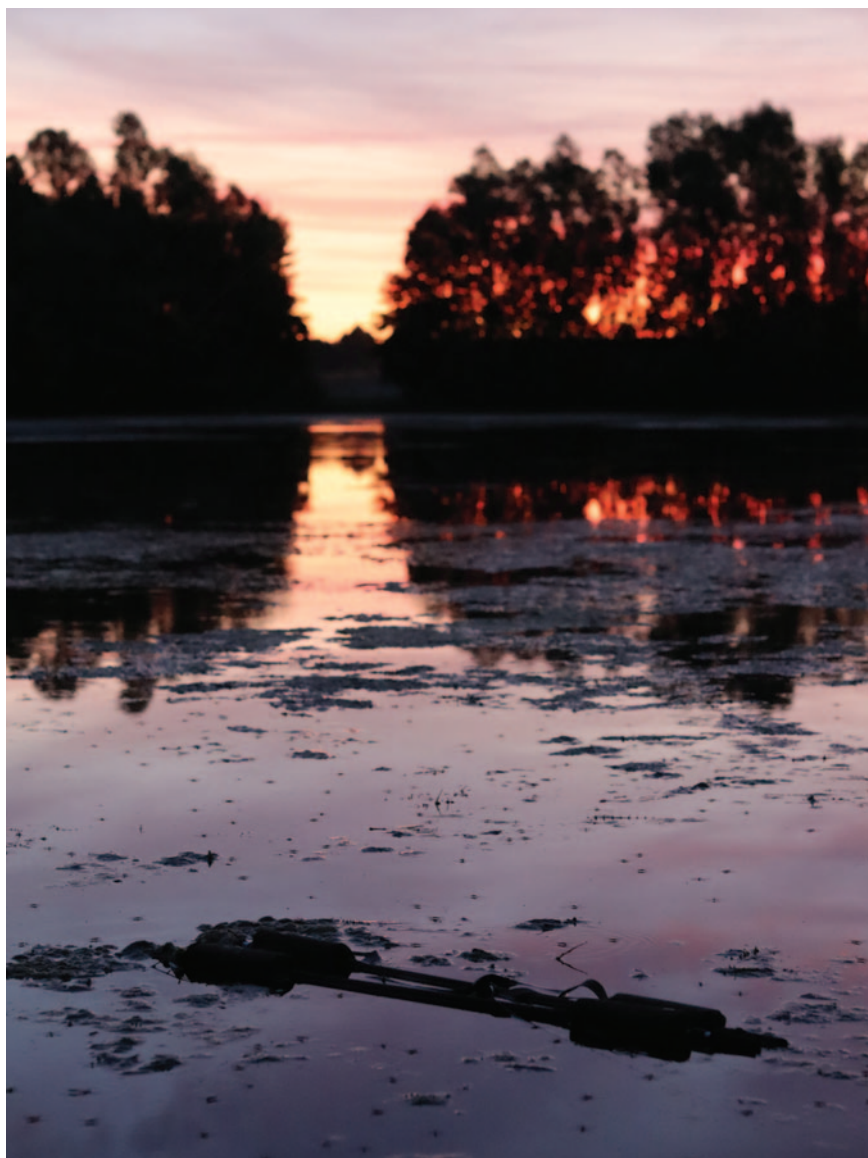
only describe as a 20 stone geezer bombing of a 4m diving board this fish BOOMED out which was like someone had injected pure red-bull straight into my veins I'm up and out the bivvy in milliseconds running to the bank to be greeted by the rings of that carp lapping up against my boat, wow what a buzz and with that JB popped his head out his bivvy with sleepy "WTF was that id thought you'd fallen in" after explaining that was a carp he snapped into gear wide awake now we knew we needed to get the rods out like a military operation quick and precise, so I'm taking my 1st rod out and disaster I've spooked a big black carp on the top of the weed right bang in the middle of my two spots agghhhh ffs that's not getting caught any time soon!

Other than that all the rods went out without a hiccup we cycled round

to one of the boys swims to grab some lunch and a few well deserved cold ciders, conversations flowing everyone is loving life then all of a sudden i get a single bleep and like a switch everyone goes silent and now all eyes are on my receiver and about 4 seconds later all hell breaks loose a one toner from hell I've jumped on the nearest bike and i swear there was a moment when i was cycling around that i looked down and i couldn't see my legs any more as they were going so fast haha! getting to the swim in a time lance Armstrong would be proud of i legit thought i might have a heart attack luckily JB had followed and had jumped in the boat too. Considering its top to bottom weed this fish had flat rodded me and is just towing me about slowly but carefully I gained a few yards on her and eventually managed to get above it by this point you can imagine the amount of weed collected on the end, now you have all heard people say "the amount of weed was like a car" well this wasn't far off ! JB was frantically pulling weed off until he just looked around with pure panic in his eyes " mate it's the biggest fish I've ever seen and the darkest" so at that point panic mode set in big time now I know I'm hooked to a fish of a life time on the end so I pass JB the net to do the honours and the net just sh\*ts itself and completely falls apart! Now JB is panicking too, then it was off again towing me through even more weed than the first run, by now JB is freaking out so I'm trying to calm him down as he goes to net it and she went for one last run, but I managed to turn it and JB swooped! How we never capsized the boat celebrating I will never know.

The landing net was bulging and as I've removed the weed i uncovered the most mesmerising fish id ever seen a colossal dark mirror with big scales and a golden under belly bearing in mind the biggest fish id seen on the bank was a low 30 so i really didn't have any reference point on size and the whole way back to the bank it just keep growing i knew it was above 40lb but if it went 50 that would be fish of a lifetime so the boys weighed it and the look on their face as they said 61 lb 13oz will live with me for ever!!!

Fish of a lifetime in the photo album I decided to leave that rod out





as I didn't want to spook the area if fish were feeding in my area I thought I'd give it the afternoon and it paid off as my other rod melted off with the same scenario flat rodding me through weed bed after weed bed and another battle from hell lasting well over 20 minutes! JB scooped him up and just looked at me and said, "I think the cigars are coming out tonight mate its bigger!"

And to my amazement she was a dark 67lb 9oz beauty with an amazing cluster of small starburst scales on her wrist wow! Another soaking was on its way! Me and JB sank loads of beers and lit up cigars and just buzzed of the craziest days fishing we will likely ever witness.

It was a crazy week for my friends who I fish with Luke having a 50+ lb on that trip too and after letting a few lads know the news I got a call from bill and greener who were also in Europe that week and on their last

night greener had a 60 and bill had a 70lb monster, what a WEEK!!!!

For the next year all i could think about was that lake and how i would tweak a few things and after a really challenging year in my personal life id had enough and needed to get away with the Mrs and as per usual those carp gods were looking down on me the lake owner had let me know of a last minute cancellations so we booked it .

i had 3 weeks to prepare and this time i wanted to come up with a way to easily check weed depth so i made up a prodding stick with a bit of pvc pipe with pidgin spikes fixed from the bottom up a foot that way i can put the stick down find my spot and I can see if there's any weed at all covering it. the lake was fishing hard at the time without doing a bite in 3 weeks and with temperatures reaching nearly 40 degrees and water levels down two feet i knew it would be

hard, no bites in 3 weeks meant there was a lot of bait out there as i didn't think they were feeding so i opted to fish basically liquid and daphnia only with a popped up double corn which resulted in 3 fish including a lush old withered carp a few oz over the 50lb mark . On the last day it did end on a sour note as I struggled landing a colossal common at the net a foot under the weed with the drawstring just wouldn't penetrate and later that day talking to the owner and explaining how long it was and the size to find out it was one called peter perfect with goes mid 70 at that time of year. As bad as that feeling is I think we need those epic lows to really appreciate those epic highs which is something I have taken into my life and fishing, so next time you're out blanking and loosing fish just think how sweet it will be when you get your target!!!

Tight lines. Matt Blake. ■





# A Winter's Tale

By Luke Phillips

**A**s Autumn turns to winter and the nights are long and cold the lakes begin to empty; this is one of the best times of the year! This is a little insight into the way I approach my winter campaign. For winter I still think there's a time for baiting but with all the wildlife wanting to eat your bait, putting it in during the session is a no for me. I don't want birds diving on me all weekend frustrating the hell out of me. I like to bait when I leave the lake. I think in winter when you have birds dive on you constantly a bite is more unlikely. So, my approach is mostly based on singles



in winter. So, autumn being very slow for me, but I did manage one special one. But mainly watched other anglers have a red-letter autumn. Dodgy boy you know who I'm talking

about great angling mate. So as Autumn turns to winter the lakes freeze solid for a week.

But as Christmas nears, the cold snap let's go of its icy grip. Christmas





came ... not much fishing takes place, do the family commitments and being with loved ones but as the year comes to it end and a new one begins, I always spend New Year's Eve on the bank reflecting on the year that's just passed and what the future holds.

That was a very quiet two days with not seeing a sign of a carp, but this is not uncommon in the depths of winter. I fish watching studying the water hoping for that one show that could open the door to a wonderful chestnut winter carp in its full colours.

So back to work it was, upon looking at the weather there was a south westerly warm front coming in which got me very excited, the week went quite slow but at 4:30pm I was driving down to the Essex quarry again with a swim in mind. Being a new south westerly Pallets would have calm water on it but on the wind but off the wind if you know what I mean. On turning up to the lake and going into the lodge to get the mat and net it was a full house meaning all mats were there meaning I would be the only one on the lake. So, I took my



time and wondered down to the swim but with the wind blowing and the trees crashing I couldn't really hear much so back to the van to get the gear and get set up - anyone who fishes through the winter and setting up in the dark and having blank after blank knows that mindset is everything... consistency, perseverance will prevail in the end.

So, the rods went out in the dark, knowing the lake was empty I would start long and fish for liners so one

went out at 17 ,19 and one at 26 wraps fishing semi slack line. By now it's half 8 so on goes the food and just watching the water it was a full moon that weekend a south westerly wind things couldn't get much better. About half ten jumped in the sleeping bag to get a few hours kip I like to be up by around 4:30 am as I feel in winter it's a good time to listen for them but with the big moon, I could see the silvery water lighting it up.

Must have been about 5'ish I was

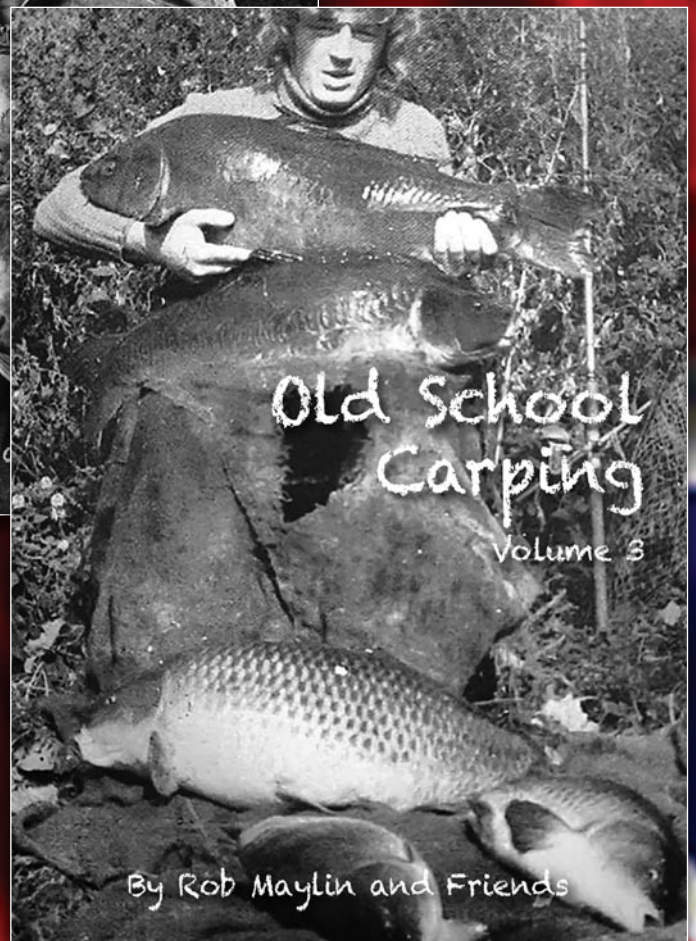
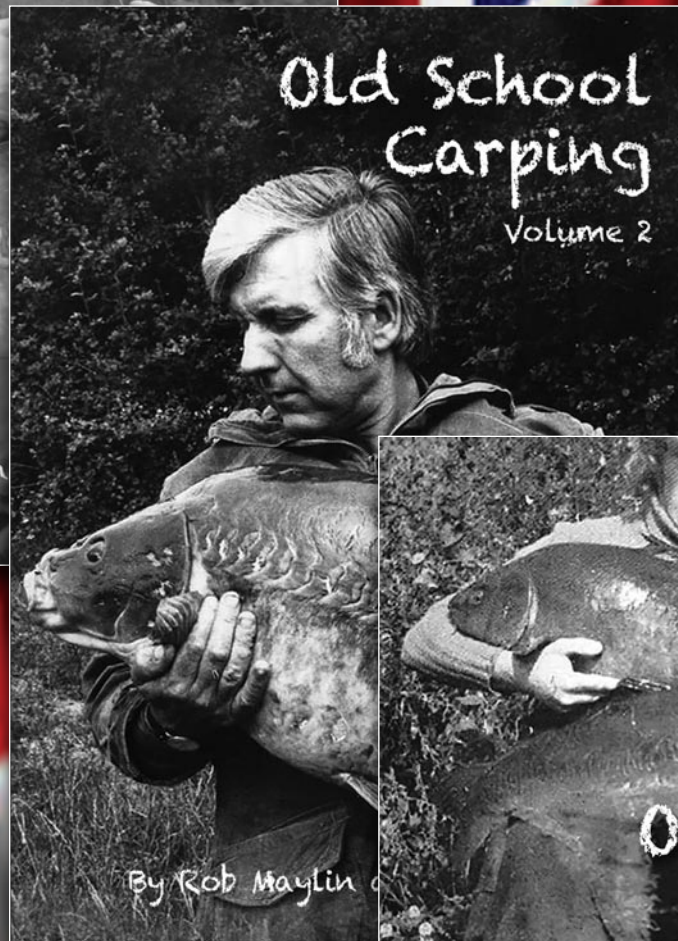
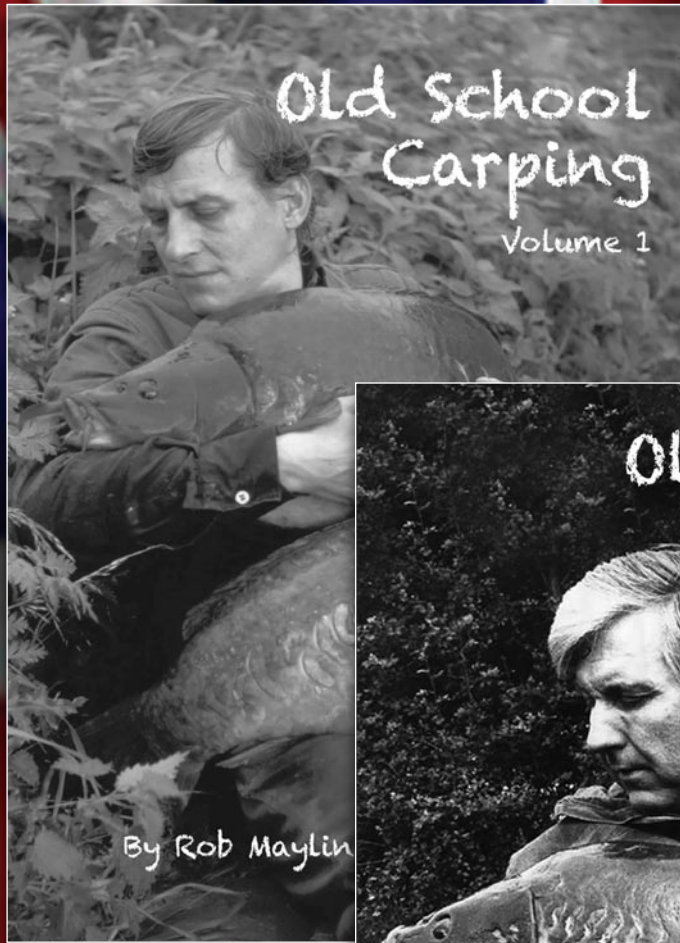








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stirring my cup of coffee looking across the water I saw a black silhouette rise from the water. I couldn't believe it, this was the 1st show I had seen for a week, but it was nowhere near where I cast my rods. I didn't

have to think I've just went down to the rods and the longest were been reeling in one went out at 15 and one at 17 wraps just casting out and feeling for that drop, one went down quite hard the other was a soft dull



thud but I was fishing naked helicopter rig this way I can react to anything I see.

The sun slowly came up. The lake seemed alive that morning with a few shows dotted around the lake. By





10am I was just sitting there wondering why one of them hadn't gone off I was definitely on them didn't really want to cast on them in the daylight hours I just sat on my hands then at 11am the middle rod slammed up straight back down again I looked out to see if there was a tufty out there was two more deeps with the line not really moving I was on the rod thinking I was going to pull into a tufty but the rod just looped over and the reel slowly clicking and heading out into the lake this felt like a nice carp just slowly clicking and taking line it kitted left, I started gaining a bit of line then it changed direction and went hard right just plodding deep but I was now leaning into it hard.

It was slowly coming up then two big shoulders came up I could see it was a big common was this Cassius the one I've been hunting all year my legs went to jelly my heart was pounding. It slowly bored back down into the deep and kitted left and heading towards the snags left of the

swim I slammed the rod tip down and pulled harder the rod was bent over in a blink of an eye the fish was in front of me again I can see now it wasn't Cassius but it looked big and into the net she went.

It's times like this when you sit back letting the carp catch its breath and all the cold long night are worth it, they just fade away and all the blanks are forgotten. So, rod goes back out made a cuppa and got the camera ready.

That was a lovely day, few friends come down to share the capture nothing else happened that day once again that long dark night settling in didn't really sleep much that night knowing well hoping another bite was on the cards, morning broke, and the lake was totally different. I didn't see a show and the morning slowly passed but then at 12 the left-hand rod slowly pulled. I picked the rod up and it just knocked a few times to be honest I thought it was a smaller fish as I gain line on it quite quick. It was

one of them fights the more I played it the bigger it's got and I was quite surprised when it went into the net it was a very nice fish indeed, I just sat back made a cuppa this was turning out to be a great trip.

Pictures all done a cup of coffee for everyone and sat down and chilled. My boy had football on Sunday so slowly packed up and left the rods out until dark upon leaving 3 kg boilie went out into the lake the following weekend was a lot colder and didn't see anything show. The week after the wind turned to a north-easterly and on the second night the lake started to freeze, I love the sound it makes as it goes across the lake ping-pong as it goes.

This was the second time I've been frozen in. Winter had returned with its icy grip but as soon as it thaws, I will return and if it takes several blanks before my next winter carp so be it.

It's a wonderful time of the year to be on the lake watching, listening waiting for that next opportunity. ■





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# *Legendary Carp Paintings*



- Basil
- Heather
- The Black Mirror
- The Royal Forty
- The Bishop
- The Burghfield Common
- Jumbo
- Two Tone
- Mary and Mary's Mate

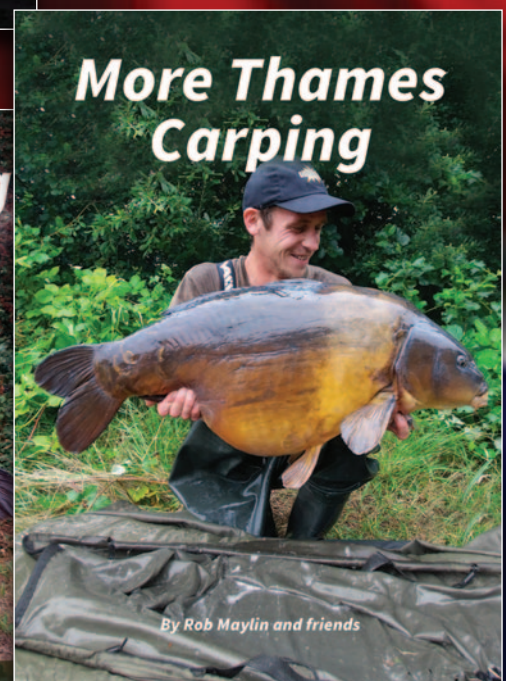
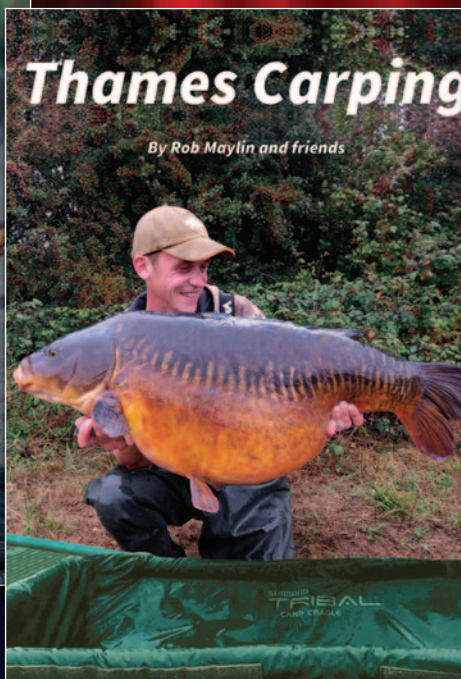
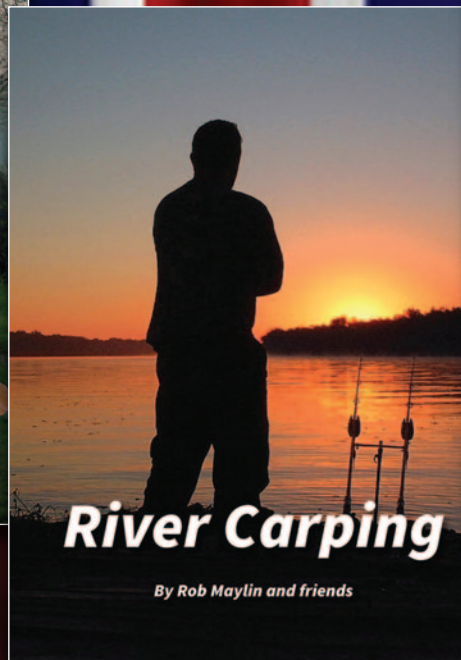
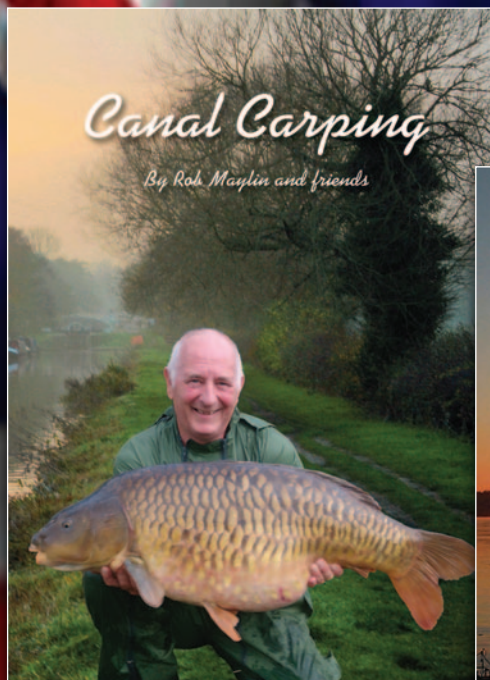


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BARRY OCONNOR

RICK GOLDER

CRAIG RUNHAM

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Also available this month,

Big Carp Issue 321

Miss it and miss out!

## Hello carpers!



I haven't mentioned HS2 for a few months, but recent developments have spurred me to give you an update on what is turning out to be the biggest waste of money our government have ever dreamt up. Not only have they now delayed the project by a further two years but the stupid link does now not even go to Euston main London station, defeating the whole point of an ultra-quick link between London and Birmingham. Travellers will only be able to get as close as Burnt Oak, needing to seek further transit to reach central London, and obviously increasing travel time dramatically. Here's what the papers had to say:

### Britons call for HS2 to be scrapped – 'biggest waste of taxpayer money!'

It is death by gangrene. No government seems to have the guts to kill HS2, Britain's biggest and craziest infrastructure project, so each merely lops off another limb. In 2021, it was Leeds. Now the opening of the Birmingham-to-Manchester and Acton-to-Euston lines has been delayed.

### HS2 to be delayed by two more years due to soaring costs

This railway is a southern project on which the chancellor, Jeremy Hunt, is blowing a staggering £100m a week or £5bn a year. He is paying HS2's boss £622,000 a year, and its executives in the region of £250,000. After six hopeless chairs, Whitehall last month desperately turned to a civil servant, Sir Jonathan Thompson, to take charge.

Even on present guesstimates, the core HS2 will not reach Birmingham until the mid-2030s. As for the bizarre decision to head for Euston, that cannot be realised until about 2040. By then, the citizens of Camden, who have already lost hundreds of homes to this railway, will have overlooked a wilderness on their doorstep for 20 years or more. The world's finest contractors will have taken a quarter century to build a project that Robert Stephenson finished in five years with picks and shovels. This is inexcusable.



Carp Chat Carpy News .....6

Carp Scene Reviews .....14

## ARTICLES

Autumn Gold *by Rick Golder* .....18

25 Years of Bait Part One *by Steve Briggs* .....30

Spotted Fin Review – Something New is Coming *by Rob Maylin* .....34

25 Years in the Pursuit of England's Biggest Carp Part One *by Dave Lane* ...36

The Clear Pit *by Rick Hurley* .....42

Buckland Lake Fishery .....50

Wasing Way Part Three *by Craig Runham* .....54

The Dinosaur *by Colin O'Gorman Woolfall* .....70

Big Carp Promotions – Oak Lake Fisheries .....74

A Storming Session *by Barry Oconnor* .....76

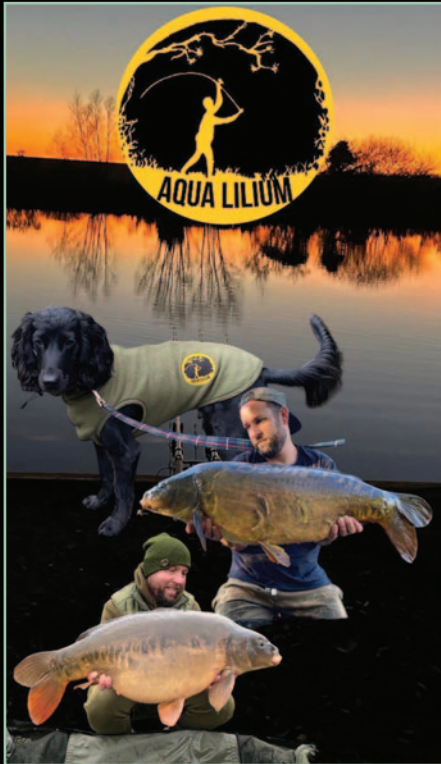
Reuben Heaton *by Andy Race* .....90

Making Your Own Luck *by Chris Rampling* .....94



# AQUA LILIUM CLOTHING

## NEW PRODUCTS



Here at Aqua Liliium clothing, we pride ourselves on bringing the best quality clothing to our customers. Not only do we have our award winning designs in the range, we are excited to be introducing two brand new fresh off the press designs coming to you soon.



The first design is, actually I personally love this design and it's taken me 6 months to complete. I am a lover of original tackle and have taken inspiration from a Centre pin reel. For those of you that are not familiar with the reel, they are mostly used for trotting along slow moving rivers. However for me, I use mine for stalking carp in the edge and believe me when I say, when a carp takes, its mayhem. It's a different feeling from your conventional big pit reel, and it's always fun when you place your thumb on the reel to slow the fish down. Often losing the skin off your thumb. Some people will say, why the roulette wheel around the outside? I believe a lot of angling is always a bit of gamble, so why not combine the 2? That's how the design 'against all odds' was born.



Design 2: This has the Aqua Liliium font coloured in a superb Aqua marine backed with a yellow shadow. As you have seen in our previous designs, we are renowned for our vibrant colours to ensure you stand out from a crowd and this is no exception. We have used the existing logo to create a multi coloured centre piece with an amazing effect.





# DOG COAT



Aqua Liliium clothing, also have a very special member in the team. It's quite simple really, we don't go fishing without him. His actually getting quite famous these days and we are lucky to have him. His name is Monty the Carp catching spaniel and his welfare, is just as, if not more important than ours. Because his part of the Aqua Liliium journey, means he needs his own clothing range. We/ I think this is one of the best items in the range and Monty is proud to launch his very own bivy coat, The Full Monty. We have taken a lot of care when designing the full Monty and believe this will also go on to be award winning. The coat itself, is made using a warm stretchy material with a zip running the length of the back. The coat is designed to be worn semi tight to your best friend's body still allowing he or she to move freely. We know there are dogs that truly do not like wearing coats and this is because most dog coats are too loose on the dog, and the dog finds this irritating. Aqua Liliium clothing have trialled the coat on all different dogs and I can honestly say every dog has carried on with their business as usual. There will be all sizes available from extra small to 3xl and a size chart will be available on the website.



Can I take the opportunity to thank everybody who has supported us over the last 8 months, I know it's not easy at the moment for most and we will continue to bring you quality clothing at the best possible price.

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You can also reach us through our Facebook and Instagram pages.



## Sir Charles Walker MP stepping down as Chair of the Angling Trust

Sir Charles Walker MP has today announced that he is stepping down as Chair of the Angling Trust due to the pressure of work in Parliament following his appointment to several important Commons committees.

He feels he can no longer do justice to his role within the Trust while sitting as a serving MP in the current 'febrile' political climate which will only become more intense as the General Election approaches.

Charles, a lifelong angler, was appointed as the unpaid Chair of the Angling Trust's Board of Directors in May 2022 after he had announced his decision to retire from Parliament at the next general election. He formally took over from outgoing Chair George Stephenson in September.

Charles has represented the Broxbourne constituency in Hertfordshire for the Conservatives since 2005 and has served in a variety of senior positions in Parliament including as Vice Chairman and Acting Chairman of the 1922 Committee of Conservative MPs. He also chairs the All Party Parliamentary Groups on Angling and Chalkstreams.

Last October he was appointed to serve on the House of Commons Standards and Privileges Committee, which polices the conduct of MPs, in addition to his roles as Chairman of the Administration Committee and as a Commissioner of the House of Commons Commission.

Sir Charles said:

"I have nothing but admiration for Jamie Cook and the excellent team at the Angling Trust and will continue to work with them, where I can, for the benefit of the sport we all love and the environment upon which it depends. The Trust is a fiercely independent organisation with a hard-earned reputation for vigorously campaigning on behalf of Britain's two million anglers and, where I can, I will do my



best to ensure that fish and fishing are championed in Parliament.

"However, with an increased workload in the Commons and a hard-fought general election looming in a politically febrile atmosphere I have come to the conclusion that I simply cannot spare the time to do justice to the role of Chair of the Angling Trust on top of everything else."

Charles added: "I will be continuing my work as Chairman of the All Party Parliamentary Groups on Angling and on Chalkstreams and intend to remain fully engaged in the Trust's campaigns to protect access for anglers and creating marine sport fisheries."

Angling Trust CEO Jamie Cook added:

"I shall be sorry to see Charles step down as he is a fantastic and long-standing advocate for angling and was by far the strongest candidate for the job. He is, without question, the most passionate supporter of angling in Parliament and in 2020 Charles was instrumental in helping us persuade ministers to allow fishing to continue during the various Covid lockdowns

when other sports remained banned.

"As our Chair, he has helped us overturn angling restrictions on places like the Attenborough Nature Reserve and move forward with exciting proposals for a recreational tuna fishery. However, I respect his reasons for stepping down and I'm delighted that he intends to keep working with us and remain Chairman of two important All Party Parliamentary Groups. He is, and will always be, a great friend to fish and fishing."

Fish Legal Chair George Graham commented:

"Anglers have for many years been lucky to benefit from Charles's support in Parliament. In his time as our Chair he has continued that work, helping us to navigate a path through some thorny issues that threatened our sport.

We are sorry that his increasing parliamentary commitments mean he will not be able to continue in that role. His enthusiasm for the work we do at Fish Legal has also greatly encouraged us; I will miss working with him." ■



## The Angling Trust congratulates Voluntary Bailiff for outstanding work



Angling Trust Regional Enforcement Manager for the South-East Dave Wilkins joined Martynas Pranaitis and Peter Bowers Davis from the Environment Agency - Kent & South London Fisheries Team on patrol at Singleton Lake in Ashford. The visit was also to recognise the outstanding work of Kevin Scobie who submitted more bailiff reports than any other volunteer in the South-East. Kevin is a bailiff at the lake and combines his duties with his role for at the Angling Trust. These patrols and reports don't go unnoticed, and everyone at the Angling Trust thanks him for his service. Anybody interested in being part of the Voluntary Bailiff Service can find out more using the link below. <https://anglingtrust.net/enforcement/> ■

## Barry and Benn Oconnor join Individual Baits



Ben and myself are now consultants for Individual Baits also known as Steamies. We've known Kristian for a few years now and are looking forward to working alongside him and his team. We visited the factory today and we were impressed with what we saw. We can't wait to try some of their products. ■

## See you at the Fly Fair show!



The Angling Trust and Fishing In Wales will be at the British Fly Fair International show at the Staffordshire County Showground on February 11 & 12. If you're going to the show to pick up a bargain or two, don't forget to pop along to our stand and say hello! ■

ACA HorseShoe event 12th and 13th August 2023



## Anglers Charity Auctions

After the success and the POSITIVE feedback received after the nhs ACA fish with stars event. We have been offered the Horseshoe Lake again for the week-end 12th and 13th August 2023 for an ACA Social.

£99, Plus BBQ, Raffle, Angling Fun and games

Further details on Stars & Company Stands to attend to follow asap keep your eyes peeled

Any bookings can be made via Scott Rowson or Paul Meehan.

Chris Dunn. Get in ASAP to save disappointment PayPal. [Anglerscharityauctions@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Anglerscharityauctions@hotmail.co.uk). ■





## Welcome to your Members Newsletter

Welcome to the latest issue of the Angling Trust & Fish Legal Members Newsletter. Today we report on the launch of our annual Christmas Raffle which raises vital funds to support our work to protect fish, fishing and the environment; how sea angling can benefit from an £18m fund; our latest trade associate partner Zerofit who have a special offer for members; the fantastic film we have produced of this year's RiverFest final on the Trent; and loads more! Tight lines! John Cheyne, Marketing, Communications & Membership Manager:



## Angling Trust launches manifesto to protect salmon



The Angling Trust took the plight of Atlantic salmon to the heart of parliament today with the launch of the Salmon Angling Manifesto for England and Wales.

The launch, attended by the fisheries minister, Mark Spencer MP, called for a more coordinated approach from both the Westminster and Welsh governments to protect salmon and to take action to reverse the dramatic decline we have seen in adult salmon in our rivers.

## Save on BoatLife tickets



The Boatlife 2023 show is being held at Birmingham's NEC from February 16-19 - and we've got a fantastic offer for Angling Trust members! You can purchase tickets for the event for just £10 - saving £5 on the price of a standard ticket. The Angling Trust will be at the show - so if you do visit, don't forget to say hello!

## Great Fishing Prize Draw ... win a day's fishing with a star!



The Great Fishing Prize Draw is back with a bang for 2023 and there are SIX fantastic, money can't buy prizes on offer. Our legends this year are: Chris Yates and Hugh Miles, Jeremy Wade, David Seaman, Will Raison, Dave Lewis and Hywel Morgan!





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## A Big Thank You ... And A Goodbye

Bev Clifford has announced that she is stepping down as Manager of Carp Team England Ladies. Bev's been a huge part of the team right from the very start, firstly as a competitor and squad captain, then more recently as Manager.

A fantastic ambassador for the sport and Women's participation in particular, she will be greatly missed not just in the England camp, but throughout the world of carp fishing.

We'll let her tell you why below ... but from all of us at CTE we thank you for your service, your dedication, your help, your support, and in particular your passion.

The very, very best wishes from all of us.

A message from Bev:

After being involved with Ladies Carp Team England since its inception in 2016 and seven enjoyable years firstly as team captain and then taking over as manager it's time for me to hand the reins over. My reasons for leaving are purely selfish as I just don't have the time to commit to the level required to continue to do the job well. All roles within the England Team are voluntary and a massive drain on time and resources to everybody involved.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody that has been part of the Ladies Team over the past seven years, it's been an honour to represent our country together. A huge thank you to all that have sponsored the Team as well, especially the AIR Group for their sponsorship the past three years. An additional shout

out to KUMU Clothing for the kit designs and branding work they have done for the Ladies Team, and to everybody that has given their time and services to support the team under my management.

The last mention is to Rob Hughes, the overall manager of the Carp Teams. I stand in recognition for all that you've done for both the Women's and Men's team. There's nobody else I would have wanted to have managed the Ladies Team alongside and represented our country in our beloved sport.

Hosting the Women's Carp Fishing World Championships at Linear Fisheries in September last year was one of the highlights of my angling

career and also my life, and on reflection now seems like the perfect time to hang up my Team England shirt.

So, thank you all and I look forward to cheering on Carp Team England from the side lines going forward, I'll always be your biggest fan!





## Angling Trust calls for transparency on sewage spills



The Angling Trust has called upon the Chief Executives of all the 11 major water companies in England and Wales to come clean about the length and number of sewage spills entering the rivers from their sewerage networks.

Under the Environment Act, there is an obligation on the water industry to fit monitors and publish the data in real time to enable the public to know immediately whether sewage pollution is occurring on their local river. So far, only Thames Water have complied.

## Sir Charles Walker to step down as Angling Trust Chair



Sir Charles Walker MP has announced that he is stepping down as Chair of the Angling Trust due to the pressure of work in Parliament following his appointment to several important Commons committees. He feels he can no longer do justice to his role within the Trust while sitting as a serving MP in the current political climate which will only become more intense as the General Election approaches.

Charles, a lifelong angler, was appointed as the unpaid Chair of the Angling Trust's Board of Directors in May 2022. He formally took over from outgoing Chair George Stephenson in September.

**Life Premier membership: Special edition version of the JW Young Classic Heritage Centrepin reel**



Here at the Angling Trust, we've always tried to make membership affordable for everyone, with current adult membership starting from just £30 per year. However, we have also always offered a Life Membership option for those who can afford to front load their membership fee and help boost the funds for our essential work. Now, thanks to a partnership with one of the most historic tackle manufacturers in the world, we have an exciting new option – Life Premier Membership.

Life Premier Membership at £850 not only gives you all the existing benefits of being a member of the Angling Trust for the rest of your life, it also comes with something rather special - the first 100 people to join as Life Premier members will receive a special edition Angling Trust version of JW Young Classic Heritage Centrepin reel.





## Date switch for Float and Feeder Nationals

The Angling Trust's new international-style qualifying weekend on the Gloucester Canal has been switched from the original planned date of August 5 & 6.

The move follows a series of date clashes and changes within domestic and international calendars, helps protect the sport on the Division 1 National, and enables the Float competition to be more closely aligned to FIPS international rules with the addition of bloodworm and joker being allowed for that match.

It will mean the events will now take place on the Gloucester Canal as follows:

**Saturday August 5 – FIPS qualifier Feeder National**  
**Saturday August 12 – Division 1 National Championships**  
**Sunday August 13 – FIPS qualifier Float National**



## Free thermal hat worth £20 with any Zerofit baselayer

We've partnered with Japanese baselayer specialists Zerofit to offer anglers a free Thermal Bobble Hat worth £20 with any baselayer purchase from [www.zerofit.co.uk](http://www.zerofit.co.uk). Simply enter the code FREEHAT-TRUST when checking out.

For complete insulation against freezing temperatures, the Zerofit Heatrub Ultimate Baselayer (£55) offers five times the warmth of a standard product thanks to clever 'Heat Threads' on the inside of the garment that are highly effective at keeping you toasty warm in temperatures as low as -10° Celsius.

And remember to enter FREEHAT-TRUST when you checkout at [www.zerofit.co.uk](http://www.zerofit.co.uk) to receive your free Thermal Bobble Hat worth £20!



## Apply now for funding to improve your fishery



There's just over one month left for clubs, fisheries, NGOs, local authorities or other angling organisations to apply for a share of £500,000 from the Environment Agency's Fisheries Improvement Programme.

Money for projects to improve habitat and facilities for anglers will be made available through the fund which comes directly from fishing licence sales. The fund can also help fisheries become more resilient to the impact of climate change.



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## Whitby launches new multipurpose pocket knife for everyday carry

Whitby Knives, specialist in durable and dependable products for over 60 years, has expanded its range of multipurpose pocket knives suitable for legal everyday carry in the UK. With four essential tools, the company has added the Whitby KENT+ EDC knife to its collection.

An ideal compact multipurpose pocket knife for a wide range of tasks in the home and on the move, the handy KENT+ is based on the brand's bestselling Kent range. It features the range's popular dual colour handle design with the addition of four essential devices ideal for tackling a range of everyday tasks.

Weighing just 108g, so users can carry it around with ease, the KENT+ EDC features a 5.7cm (8.7cm closed length) plain blade knife with finger hole made from tough, corrosion resistant 12CR27 steel. In addition, it offers a handy flat head screwdriver, scissors and a Phillips screwdriver with cap lifter. Ideal for those who like to be prepared wherever they go, the KENT+ EDC comes in a choice of five eye-catching colours: Lava Orange (pictured), Carbon Fibre Pattern, Cactus Green, Black Pakkawood and Olive Wood.

Priced at £29.95, the Whitby KENT+ EDC is available to purchase now from [www.berryuseful.co.uk](http://www.berryuseful.co.uk). A Whitby Kent+ black nylon sheath with a handy 1.75" belt loop can be purchased separately for £2.95. ■



**GEOFF  
ANDERSON**

## Press release



## We celebrate the 25th anniversary with a special Black Edition



Raptor has never been seen in a black disguise before. We have sold enough Raptor jackets to promise you something unique. Historically, we have had a complaint rate of less than 0.5 % in the past 25 years. Regardless of the water column pressure, the choice of materials and construction has proven that nothing works better in real life than the way we have designed Raptor. It is not without reason that Raptor is named after a predatory dinosaur. A species that developed and perfected its skills, and ended at the top of the food chain as the ultimate hunter. Similarly, the Raptor jacket's evolution has resulted in a perfection of its features. A jacket design where waterproofness, strength, and mobility are united in a crispness of simplicity. For this reason, the style has always attracted beginners as well as pro guides. ■



## How Anglers Can Stave Off the Sneezes

Angling should be an enjoyable and peaceful pursuit, but if you have hay fever it's anything but. Pollen from the grass on riverbanks, fields, verges and lawns is the main culprit and it affects around 95% of sufferers, causing unpleasant symptoms such as sneezing, sniffing and watery eyes.

However, help is at hand in the form of HayMax organic drug-free allergen barrier balm, which is perfect for angling as it is non-drowsy...

A great way to reduce the severity of your hay fever symptoms is to reduce the amount of grass pollen entering your body.

Everyone can tolerate a certain amount of pollen in their body without reaction. But once this amount is exceeded – known as the trigger level – hay fever symptoms will start to occur.

HayMax organic drug-free allergen barrier balms work by stopping grass and other pollens getting into the body. And they're perfect for anglers because they're drug-free with no drowsy side-effects so won't spoil your enjoyment.

HayMax is easy to use; simply

apply a small amount around the rim of the nostrils and bones of the eyes before going out fishing or outdoors, and as necessary during the day.

HayMax has been proven in independent studies to trap all types of pollen, as well as dust and pet allergens, before they enter the body [1], [2]. An independent study by NPARU\* found that when applied around the rim of the nostrils, HayMax trapped over one third of pollen grains [2].

In an independent survey by Allergy UK, the leading national charity providing support, advice and information for those living with allergic disease, 80% of respondents said that HayMax worked for hay fever [3]. Many people report that HayMax works straight away, and in the same survey, 94% of participants found HayMax quick to be effective. 44% said that it worked immediately and a further 35% said that it worked within an hour or two.

Previously in July 2014, almost eight out of ten survey respondents said the balm helped some or all of their hay fever symptoms [4].

HayMax can also be used whilst

driving and operating machinery, and will not adversely affect your performance at work, school, during exams or while taking part in sporting or fitness activities.

It has been used successfully by two Olympic athletes, with many doctors in the media regularly talking about it. HayMax has attained The Allergy Friendly Product Award from Allergy UK, awarded to products that are potentially of benefit to people affected by allergy, asthma, or sensitivity and are unlikely to cause a reaction.

It is 100% natural, certified organic by the Soil Association and carries the Vegetarian Society Approved vegetarian trademark. In all, HayMax products have gained over 50 awards from various consumer and trade bodies and organisations.

HayMax organic drug-free allergen barrier balms have a rrp of £8.49 per pot and are available from independent chemists, pharmacists and health stores, Holland & Barrett, Booths, Ocado, selected Superdrug and Boots, on 01525 406600 and from [www.haymax.biz](http://www.haymax.biz). ■







## CarpLounge RT7 Bait Boat and All in 1 Controller

Fans of social media cannot possibly have missed the meteoric rise to fame of German tackle company 'CarpLounge Tackle' and their state-of-the-art bait boats which have taken the UK market by storm.

CarpLounge are here to stay, opening their first mega-store in Basildon Essex and making a huge impact at the UK carp shows recently.

Their new bait boat the RT7 and All in 1 controller is already making waves amongst top UK anglers, as it looks set to rule the waves in 2023.

Over the next few issues, we will be looking at what makes this boat unique amongst its rivals, putting the boat through its paces at the CarpLounge test lake in Essex and talking to James Armstrong about why he and so many top names are jumping ship to the RT7 for their carp angling this year.



### Why should I use a bait boat?

This month let's take a look at what some of the UK's top carp anglers say:

**Darrell Peck:** "If it's a new lake, you can learn a lot by driving around with the bait boat by using the echo sounder to get an idea of the topography and even see the fish on the Raymarine."

**Frank Warwick:** "Even when you are one of the World's best long-range casters, a bait boat could sometimes be an advantage."

**Ali Hamidi:** "Location is everything, the knowledge about the exact bottom course and the ability to quickly find a hot spot will definitely increase the catch rate."

**Alan Blair:** "No question a bait boat has its advantages: the placement of rigs and bait in hard-to-reach places, at night or over distances makes fishing more effective."

**Danny Fairbrass:** "There is no faster way to explore the ground structure of your lake effectively and in high detail. The precise GPS auto pilot makes it so easy to save nice features as a spot and bring the boat back automatically after a take – a huge advantage."

**James Armstrong:** "I have used a lot of bait boats in the past, but the clarity with this is outstanding!"

See the CarpLounge RT7 advert and see why this boat's special features put it at the head of the fleet.

Check out the website [www.carplounge.co.uk](http://www.carplounge.co.uk) and see them on Facebook. ■



Hit the play button to see the RT7 and All in 1 Controller in action.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J9XjABc5CPU&list=TLGGwvfWRDjWfWgyNDAzMjAyMw&t=21s>





# CARPLOUNGE RT7 BAITBOAT OUR MASTERPIECE



Introducing the next Level Carplounge Baitboat! The RT7 - a game-changing product that sets a new standard for high-end baitboats and industrial rovers. As the international market leader, we are committed to continuous innovation and are proud to unveil the RT7, a next-level baitboat that is sure to revolutionize the way you fish. With its advanced features and sleek design, the RT7 is a masterpiece that will take your fishing experience to new heights.



Check out the website [www.carplounge.co.uk](http://www.carplounge.co.uk) and see them on Facebook.



# Autumn Gold

By Rick Golder

A new challenge was to come; I couldn't get it out of my thoughts.



**A**s 2015 went out, finally results had begun to come my way. I'd certainly struggled in the prolific spring months, and that had continued on into the summer. For the life of me I couldn't work out why, as I'd not changed anything, and as the lean spell went on I became more and more determined to get through it. Confidence is a funny thing, as once I'd had one decent fish, it all came flooding back. That was the boost I needed, and without seeming to alter anything, it all seemed so much less effort. Now I'd got that out of the way, it was back to it, and I began thinking about my autumn fishing, and more precisely where I wanted to fish. In the summer school holiday months I tend to only do single nights, fishing close to home and taking the kids for a few sessions. I'd taken my older boy to a club lake a couple of times for day sessions, and we'd had a fantastic time with him catching fish up to 17lbs on his own rods. In fact he out-fished me on each occasion! It was great though, and as well as us spending time together, I'm sure these activities are far more beneficial than being on the bloody Xbox! It was a lovely lake too, and on the warm days of summer there were fish jumping and rolling everywhere, and we even had a couple of takes as we clipped the bobbins to the line just after casting.

One of my fishing pals had often talked to me about a lake that I'd



known about for years, but one that he'd spent a couple of seasons on and had really enjoyed fishing, mainly because it was a picturesque place, but more importantly nice and quiet. The more he talked about it, the more interested I became, and I had actually seen the lake a couple of years before anyway, so I knew it was indeed a nice looking place. What most excited me was what was in there, or specifically what wasn't, as it

was seriously low stocked. The only real prize was a single big old mirror that had been targeted by many gifted anglers over the years. I had a photo of this fish on my phone when it had been caught the previous October; it was a cracker, and a prodigious one too. Apart from that fish, the 16 acres held little else, so it held the deserved reputation as being seriously difficult.

With all this in my mind, and especially that I've left other places for too long and either never got round to actually fishing them, or they've suddenly got too busy, in mid August I asked him to give me a full tour. One sunny afternoon I met him down there, and he let me in the gate. I had a feeling of huge anticipation as we walked down the narrow path, and I strained to get my first glimpse of the place between the dense foliage that bordered the water's edge. It was indeed a lovely, wild looking place, full of snags, no fishing areas of thick trees and bars that were protruding from the lake out in the middle due to



**(Top) Thomas out-fished me every trip.**

**(Left) I could just make out the tail as it all went into the net.**



the low mid summer water level. The paths were so narrow in places I could only imagine the difficulties of pushing a fully laden barrow round, and in some areas we had to duck down as fallen trees crossed our route around. Parts of the path were bordered by savage looking brambles that tore at my clothing, and even they looked as old as anything, bare brown with ancient savage thorns that were as sharp as a hypodermic.

As well as the feeling of excitement, it wasn't half intimidating, as in every swim we stopped in there seemed a mass of features, plus with the size of the place, and knowing it held but a handful of fish, it seemed the sort of venue you could be trying to crack for years. What put me off most though was the colour – algae green the like of which I'd never seen before, so thick in places that it looked like a boilie wouldn't have dropped through it. The trees that had been in the water were stained with the



green colouration, and the surface seemed lifeless apart from an armada of coots that were diving all over. In places there was a heavy, putrid smell that hung over the most densely coloured areas. I remember saying to my friend I wasn't fishing there, solely due to the water colour, but he

assured me that come autumn it would clear. It was a bit of a downer really, as everything else I had liked. We left it at that, and when I walked out of the gate I wondered if it was one to forget about forever...

The following week I took the family on holiday, and whilst catching

**(Top)** I found some fish in a small bay.  
**(Below)** 36lb Kingsmead stunner.







# Lake Serene Up For Sale

Situated in the Champagne Region near Vitry-le-François, the lake is just a three and a half hour drive from Calais.

Set over a 16-acre site, the lake occupies 10 acres, with a phenomenal stock of over 280 carp. (Average weight of 45lb to 47lb).

Situated within woodlands and off the beaten track, the lake is very secluded and peaceful. It has a 3-bedroom lodge and separate toilets and showers for the anglers.

It is a wonderful business opportunity for someone younger to drive it forward as the owners are wanting to retire.

If serious please **call John on +447763303712**  
to find out more information and arrange a visit...



shrimp with the kids in the rock pools, my mind kept wandering to the mental images of the lake I'd stored away, so much so I couldn't stop thinking about it, and as soon as the holiday was over I called my friend and begged him to take me down for another look. It was now September, and there was the odd little hint that autumn was on the way as once again we made our way around the bank that seemed as if no one had ventured on since our last visit. As we came to the first swim, I looked straight into the margin, and I could see the shingle on the bottom, something that had not been possible before. The lake was still green, but not as bad, and the stronger late summer winds seemed to have pushed it around, as one end was worse than the end that I most liked. My friend assured me that this was as good as it gets, and he built me up to having a go, I was easily sold into it, as I in all truth I didn't need much convincing, my mind was already jumping ahead as to how I was going to tackle it.

I had a couple of advantages, and knowing the challenge that lay ahead I planned on using everything I could. Adam, the mate who had shown me around, was a goldmine of information, as was another friend, Wayne, who had caught her a year previously. I spoke to both of them, and being both top guys they shared loads of intelligence, so much so it gave me mental overload. Most importantly they told me the areas to concentrate my limited time on and how best to exploit it. With this knowledge in place, and my ticket coming through within a couple of days, I was down there every other day, firstly with the marker, and I spent hours scraping the bottom with a lead in two swims that I knew were the ones I wanted to focus my efforts on. The bottom was a mass of features, and it felt that I could have fished ten rods in each one and still not covered them all, so narrowing it down was going to be tricky.

In my favourite swim the main feature was a big bar that ran centrally across the swim about 60 yards out. This was covered in dead weed, the result of a summer of coloured water, which had killed all of it off, and the wind had pushed it down until it had become lodged against the highest part of the bar. This section had been

exposed on my visit, but although it was now submerged, it was only just below the surface. Whilst it was the biggest feature, it didn't appeal to me, and any clear bits I found were either too shallow, or too big and blatant. The gravel on this bar was far too harsh, with the rod buckling over telling me there were more rocks there than gravel, and when I bought the lead back it had big chunks ripped out of it. I quickly discounted this, and spent time scoping the rest of the swim for something better.

It didn't take long to find what I was after – hard, silty spots that gave me a good firm thump when I landed on them and much smaller in size and therefore less obvious. They were nice and easy to fish too, being a gentle lob from the bank, and I knew I could utilise my favourite Mirage fluorocarbon mainline, giving me best covert line lay, with subtle little 1.5oz bolt leads. It was catapult range, and I felt I could accurately bait the spots with ease. Rig wise it was only going to be the hinged stiff rig, in which I had every confidence, being an out-and-out big fish rig with supreme hooking abilities. A big size 5 chod hook matched a 16mm pop-up perfectly, and the hook holds I get with the shape and pattern of this hook were the way to judge the rig's effectiveness, and in every case they were outstanding, with the hook grabbing a good lump of flesh, and I can hardly remember losing anything to a hook pull.

My bait was sorted; I had recently switched over to the new Essential Salami in the red fishmeal B5, something I knew wouldn't have been used before, which in itself gave me confidence. It had a lovely spicy pungent smell that seemed to linger, and I knew from using it on another really silty lake that it resisted taking on tainted silt smells and came back as new, a sign of the high attractive signals it was giving off. Coupled with the coarse nature of the B5 base, which contained crushed shell, this gave maximum leakage over long periods of time. I'd just had a bait delivery, and as I peered into the freezer I knew I wanted to start getting some in as often as I could. You can't beat a bit of priming, and I knew without having to compete with too many other anglers, the baiting up was going to be a significant edge.

With that in the forefront of my mind, I made a sortie down there every other day at different times, armed with my marker rod, a bucket of bait and catapult. I was always careful to check the usual car parking places to see if any other anglers' cars were there, as I really wanted to keep this baiting from anyone else. However after the first two missions, it was clear the birds were on it. This was early in the year for the birds to be on bait, but that was the legacy of the green water, with the lack of summer sun killing all of the weed, and what was left being dead, the birds' natural food larders had diminished



**It was a daunting and intimidating place.**





**I saw her show right in front of me on my first session, a major result.**

with it, so the baiting was an absolute bonus for them, and even though the water was far from clear, they knew exactly where to find it. There wasn't much I could do except continue trickling it in and put a positive on it that any activity on the spots may work in my favour, as I've found in the past that diving birds don't always affect carp visiting and feeding with them in tandem. I was more worried that the army of diving birds may betray my primed areas to others, but again that was out of my hands. The one tactic I did have was to vary the baiting up times from very early to middle of the day and then on a couple of occasions later at night. With the differing times, I hoped again that at least some of the bait could be getting past the birds.

I was happy with the spots, but I've always found the temptation to look for more, or better ones, in lakes with loads of features. I made a mental note to resist this, stick with what I was happy with, be confident in my own ability to judge them as productive, and focus all my determination as to fishing them to maximum effectiveness.

After about two weeks, I made my way round for a first fishing session, a single night just to get a feel for it. It was really exciting, as by now with the numerous visits I had made, I started to feel more comfortable walking its banks, and felt accepted by the lake itself, almost like that was a first test. I carefully navigated the barrow

round, with the sides scraping through undergrowth in several places, and in others I had to come to a complete stop and carefully thread it between the drop off into the lake and the trunks of big trees that leant over the path like slalom poles to be steered around. I knew where I wanted to be, and knowing I had cast a marker so many times at the spots, it was an easy task getting the rods out. Even with the light leads I got firm drops, maybe harder than the time I had first found them, but perhaps that was all simply in my imagination...

The following morning was dull and warm with steady rain – perfect autumn conditions, and I sat in my tucked-away swim under the Tempest, staring at the lake for hours, afraid that if I took my eyes off it at all I'd miss something. The wind funnelled into my swim from the open field opposite, and with the swim being so small, I was unable to get out of the rain that drove directly into me. I was rewarded with the discomfort though, as at about 9am a fish rolled, well over towards the far bank, but still in my end of the lake. Knowing the low stock, this was a massive boost, and in the next 30 minutes I'd seen three more. One of them was definitely the big girl herself, as even though I'd only ever seen her in a photograph, there was no mistaking the size of her bulk, and the ripples she generated lapped up to my bank over 60 yards away. The negative was

that this was right over the other side to my close-in spots, but still too good an opportunity to miss, and as soon as the action ceased, I fired the marker float over, as they had all shown in the exact same area. This was tucked away near the far corner, and down under the wind that whipped across the field, but there had to be something else there that they liked, as they were clearly well concentrated.

On retrieving the lead I knew why, as wrapped around the line between the float and the lead were strands of bright green silkweed, which I'd never found elsewhere, despite all the hours of searching. I clipped the lead up, and on packing up that day put in any remaining bait I had. I now had 3 good spots sorted, and all were well away from each other, and all easy to fish. When I got home I used my Cygnet distance sticks in the garden to measure out the clipped up marker, and then copy it on my actual rod. I marked this with tape, and put it in the clip all ready, as I planned on only fishing a single bait in this area. However knowing the fish were there, I upped the baiting on this, putting in more than the other two spots combined. It was easy too, as I could pop the float up and walk round the other side and throw the baits in from the far bank field.

I had a session planned the week after but heard that the lake had been busy that weekend, and unfortunately someone was fishing in the area that I wanted to concentrate on. Rather than fish a different part of the lake that I was unfamiliar with, and that I didn't want to be in, I made the difficult decision to give it a miss and go somewhere else, knowing that unless the big one was out, I had several more trips pencilled in up until the weather was likely to turn cold. It was disappointing though, as I felt that I had fallen at the very first hurdle, but I had a plan, and I had to stick to it.

Kingsmead was my other option, and although I'd done a couple of trips earlier in the summer, I hadn't got into it at all, mainly as it had been busy on each of my visits, and I simply hadn't been able to get anywhere near the fish. However as I arrived on the Sunday afternoon, it was nice and quiet, and almost straight away I found some fizzing in a little bay that was unoccupied. It was handy too, in that I had the car right behind me,





and I flicked out two rods onto hard, silty patches between the numerous weedbeds out in front. I didn't need the marker, as I just aimed to clip the visible weed and held it back on a tight line until I got a firm drop. It took me a few casts, but I planned on leaving them out for 24 hours so it had time to settle. Being late afternoon, and the forecast warm for the follow-

ing days, I felt my best chance in and amongst the weed would be early morning.

That held out, as early the next morning the fish were back, but all of the fizzing was on one patch about ten yards further out than where I had placed my rigs. It was definitely carp, but was very localised, and as the morning wore on the bubbles ceased,

and it looked like my chance had gone. I waited until it had all stopped for certain and redid the rods to where I had memorised the fizzing had come from earlier. This time the rods were bang-on, and now all I could do was sit back, listen to the barking from the kennels and the planes' jet engines and hope they would return. I had changed one rod to a dull pink pop-up that looked almost washed-out; I like these when fishing over the red coloured free baits. They often generate quick takes, as the alternative colour is a good edge on pressured lakes.

At first light the odd bubble began to appear, and soon after a decent fish rolled out right over the baited area. It seemed I'd got it right, as once again the bubbling was in the exact same place as the day before. I was on the phone to my friend, chatting about my anticipation of getting back to the other lake, when the left hand rod pulled violently down and the buzzer

**(Top) The marginal trees were stained with the algae.**

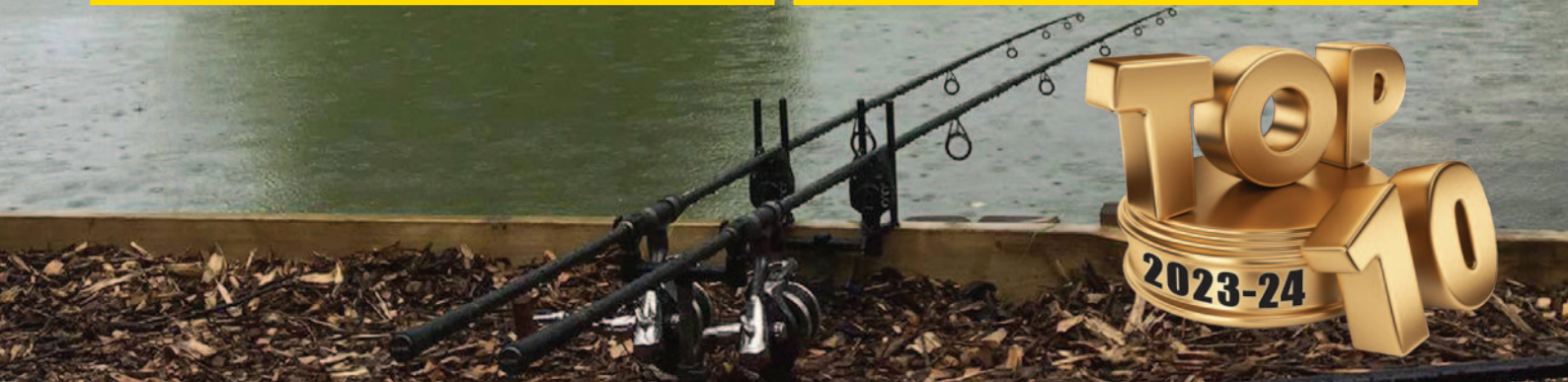
**(Below) My friend Adam was a mine of information.**





# BIG CARP TOP TEN

## Carp Fisheries



Web: [cottingtonlakes.co.uk](http://cottingtonlakes.co.uk)  
Email: [cottingtonlakes@outlook.com](mailto:cottingtonlakes@outlook.com)  
Tel: 01304 380691





**(Above) My greatest angling achievement – Daisy at 48lb 8oz after only two nights.**  
**(Bottom) I watched her swim off into the darkness.**

sound a few bleeps. This one felt heavy and stayed deep as I played it hard, trying to divert it from the large beds of weed that I could see. A couple of times it became stuck solid, but I had put on the Gardner lead eject C clips, so I knew the light lead had gone, and steady pressure had it moving again, much higher up in the water with the lead gone.

Eventually a great big ball of weed came up, and I kept it moving and netted the whole lot in one go. Just as it went over the cord I saw a glimpse of a grey coloured tail going in too, and I tore off the weed from inside the net to find cracking mahogany coloured mirror inside, which looked big too. At 36lbs it was indeed, and despite the disappointment of missing a session on the other lake, it gave me a big confidence boost. The rigs were made up with the other place in mind, so I was delighted with the hook hold; the size 6 chod hook was way inside, and it was a forceps job to remove it. I packed up wishing the

days away until I could go again, and I knew exactly where that was to be.

The following week I was on night shift at work, which gave me the chance for a number of baiting up visits, some during the day before work, and some at 6am after I'd finished. These were the first occasions I'd walked round it in the dark, and a couple of times I wasn't sure if anyone else was there, so I didn't dare turn on any lights. It really was dark under the canopy of trees, and coupled with the mist rising from the lake's surface it was an eerie, almost spooky place. I enjoyed it though, and hoped the effort would be worthwhile. The nights at work dragged on and on, but knowing I had the next week off kept me going.

On the Friday I made a last planned baiting up trip, and had by now got it all so finely tuned that I was in and out within 20 minutes. The lake was looking lovely, and I knew that I could do no more. As I drove home that day I couldn't have been more positive, until the driver behind went straight in the back of me! I hoped that was

my last bad omen, as a couple of days later I would be beginning my campaign in earnest, I couldn't wait either.

I'd had a single night session to the new water, one that held only a handful of carp, my target being a historic old mirror, a daunting prospect in 16 acres of snag and feature filled pit. I'd been really talked into tackling this place by a close friend, and with the water clearing from the horrendous algae green colour that I'd first seen, I







was keen for a decent go before winter came. Whilst it was going to be tricky, the positives were that the lake was nice and quiet; in fact I only really saw two others fishing it, which gave me a decent chance of finding an area and priming it up. My two friends who had caught the big mirror in the past had given me lots of help and advice, and as a consequence of this I had narrowed down the area that I wanted to fish to just two swims. They were both tasty looking areas, and neither be hit from anywhere else, giving the monopoly on the complete bottom end of the lake.

With it already being October, I knew I didn't have time to learn all of the lake and all of the different swims before the onset of winter, so my plan was to focus on the two areas, and in effect make the lake much smaller. I had found three lovely spots in the swim I fancied the most, and over the preceding weeks had begun applying my Essential B5 with the new salami flavour onto these features every other day but at differing times, as already the birds were causing problems. The lake had been seriously green, which had killed all the weed, and consequently all of the naturals for the coot population, so my baiting was like ringing the dinner bell to them! I had recently switched to this new flavour, as it seemed everywhere

**(Top)** A cold NE wind was blowing over my head after the first cold night of the autumn.

**(Right)** A major result on a water that I could have been on for years!

I looked it had been doing it, and in truth I hadn't had a great season until midsummer when I had a few decent fish, but a change of bait felt like a new start. Straight away I had caught on it, and interestingly it had given me a couple of elusive ones, which held promise for this place.

I'd had a terrific boost on my first single night session, as the big one had rolled in front of me, albeit over the far side, but still within range. It had been followed by a couple more rolls, but all within a small area in the far corner. This had led me to my last spot, as the lead cast in this area had found fresh green silkweed, some-

thing that I hadn't found anywhere else, and a big clue as to why the fish liked it in this area. It was also much shallower, and caught the sun all day, all factors that made it a banker for one rod at least. This spot was nice and easy to bait, as I could walk around the other side and bait up with 20 baits at a time in the catapult, and as a bonus this was a no-fishing bank too. My other two areas were close in to my own side, both within 25 yards, and both on the back of gravel seams, each giving firm, silty drops when I hit them with a light lead. I'd found both of these fairly early on, and straight away liked them, the main confusing issue being there were also a hatful of other features that I also liked, but in the end I favoured these two.

One factor that also swayed it was that one of these spots had history for producing her before, to my friend Wayne, the previous autumn, and he had kindly told me about it, being the top man he is! I was confident on all three now, and had a week of night shifts to get through before I had almost a week off fishing. The bonus of nights was that I was able to visit every day, and over the course of that week I went down there as often as I could, and at differing times, including straight after work at 6am in the dark. It was an eerie place then, but all the times I went there I learnt little things and began to feel more comfortable and accepted.







**I began to feel accepted after a while, but it was an intimidating place.**

I had another bit of good fortune on one of these baiting sorties, as just after I had introduced some bait, and being in no rush, I sat and watched the water for a while. There was a sawn-off log in the swim, perfectly placed where I could perch and watch, and I did so. Within 15 minutes of having baited up, a fish rolled right on top of the right hand spot, the one Wayne had told me about and that he had caught her from. Knowing there were so few fish in here that was another massive boost, as it was definitely a carp, and meant that I had actually seen fish show on two of my three spots, even before my second session! However, in a way it loaded the pressure up, as I knew I couldn't go any sooner due to work whatever, and I was worried that another angler may see the signs and scupper me, or even catch me baiting up.

I made sure that every visit from then on I went in and out unnoticed. On two occasions another member was present, but by going in during darkness and not daring to switch any lights on I felt that I had left unseen. I stayed away at the weekend, knowing it was likely to be busier, and spent the time double checking all my kit. This included fining it down as much as possible, as with the narrow paths it was a tricky barrow journey to say the least. I removed everything I didn't need and packed it in so I had the minimal gear. This was where the Levelite beds are great, and especially the new ELS

one, which is fantastic for those who have with bad backs, giving much firmer support and eliminating bed-chair back, from which I suffered for so long. Also being able to fold the sleeping bag and spare clothes inside it is a brilliant space saver. I then began counting the time until my session on Tuesday, but did pop over there on the Monday just for a look, the only eventful occurrence being someone going into the back of my car on the way home! I hoped this wasn't an unlucky sign, but it wasn't about to put me off.

The following day I was there, and was in hyperdrive as I pushed the barrow round there, filled with anticipation, but knowing the challenge ahead I can't say brimming with confidence! Mentally these hard waters can drain you and sap the confidence, but one edge I had was that knowing winter wasn't far off; I didn't have enough time to get deflated or bored before I'd be hanging the rods up for Christmas.

It was certainly much colder than the previous weeks, with a cold northeasterly whipping across the water from the big reservoir behind me, which was luckily over my head. I sat under the Tempest Air much warmer than when stood up in the wind. The rods went out well, but my most favoured area over to the far bank had the cold wind pushing into it, so it didn't look as good as I hoped. Big waves were hitting this bank, and I could imagine the cold undertow

coming straight back towards me. However the upside was that my two close-in areas were flat calm, and as such unaffected by the wind. I was on the hinged stiff rigs on these two close rods, both with razor sharp size 6 chod hooks, little 1.5 oz bolt bombs and 14lb Mirage fluorocarbon mainline all the way through. I'd blobbed some big bits of rig putty on the mainline above the helicopter setup to pin it all down more, and it all looked exceptionally well disguised, especially when I slackened the line completely and had it hanging from the rod tips. When balancing the pop-up in the little stream behind, I had a sly grin on my face, as with all of the covert components all I could see was the red B5 pop-up. The hook was aggressively hung beneath it, and the rest near on invisible. The long rod over the other side I'd gone in much heavier, as it was near to a dangerous looking gravel bar, so I had on 15lb GT80 with a 20lb Mirage leader, and a standard naked chod. This was the area with the silkweed, so I knew the chod rig would give me the best presentation over this, and although this area had been baited the most, I chose to only fish this as a single hookbait. I'm not overly confident in singles, as I don't often fish them, but I knew when fishing for one fish, and the previous baiting, this may well be my best option, and it meant I didn't have three separate baited spots in the one swim. I scattered about 30 baits around the other two close in rods, and prayed the coots would leave them alone.

Once the baits were out I sat in the little tucked-away swim and stared at the lake as much as I could in the hope of seeing any signs, hardly daring to prise my eyes off for even a minute to make a cup of tea, but as the day wore on the wind increased, and with the year's first cold night forecast it didn't look ideal. That night my friend Wayne called me, and I told him how poor it was looking, but he boosted me slightly, saying he caught her the day of the first frost the year before.

The following dawn was clear and cold, my trusty temperature gauge showed 4°C under the brolly, and the sloe berries around my swim were dropping from the trees like hailstones from the sky. Soon after the same cold wind picked up, and once



again I saw or heard nothing as I sat huddled under the shelter. At lunchtime I wound in to get some more water from the car and had a walk round the whole lake, stopping for a while in one of the big swims that gave me a view up the entire lake. I remember looking at the big expanse of water, snags and ancient overhanging trees, and thinking I could be trying on here for years. It was indeed my biggest ever angling challenge, but I tried to push any self doubt thoughts out of my mind.

On getting back after a quick chat with another angler who was fishing further down, I put the rods back out to the same spots. I was especially pleased with the left hand rod, as it cracked down much harder than any previous casts there, the rod springing back with a thump I could feel all the way down to the rod butt. Again put out a few B5 baits around it and took cover under the brolly.

At about 6 pm, I was staring at the rods, contemplating leaving a day early due to the poor conditions, when the left hand one absolutely ripped off, the tip pulling down and the buzzer straight into a continuous tone without any precluding single bleeps. I bent into what immediately felt heavy, and it began plodding towards a dangerous looking branch protruding from the left margin, which made me sink the tip and apply side-strain in an attempt to divert it. Never before in my fishing career have I been so sure so quickly of what fish I was attached to, with the way it stayed deep, and knowing there was really only one big fish, I knew it just had to be her. In all honesty I was shaking, and my heart was thumping as I prayed she would just give up. She obviously hadn't read that script though, as she charged off on deep run after run, up and down in front of me, and it was a full five minutes before she rolled on the surface, a big grey bulk with a creamy underside that confirmed what I already knew. It all went a bit wrong then, as she caught one of my other lines, causing that buzzer to bleep repeatedly, and the panic in me to rise as I was playing another rod too! I didn't know whether to really bully her in, or just play her out as normal, and in the end I just prayed the hook hold was good, and sunk the net in the narrow confines of the swim.

The fight went on, and I don't recall ever being so nervous, but after several long minutes she was up on the top and coming towards the outstretched net. As she rolled over the cord I frantically flicked the mesh down, and she was mine. With shaking hands I looked inside, and it was clear from her bulk it was indeed the big girl. During the fight the light had gone, and I secured the net over a scaffold pole in the front of the swim, triple checking there was no way she could escape, and went back to the car to get my mat and scales that were a few of the items I'd taken out to reduce the load. I passed the other angler on the way, and told him I'd got her, before phoning my two friends who had been such an influence on the capture, the first people I wanted to tell as a result.

On the scales she went 48lb 8oz and was so well hooked it was a forceps removal job. The other angler there gave me a hand, for which I was grateful, as the swim was so small it wasn't easy. I'd already bought all my rods in, and had even packed them away in the holdall, knowing I'd already made my last ever cast on this lake. Wayne and another friend Jim came down, and we did the photos immediately. It was early evening,

and there was no way I would ever retain a fish for that long just to get daylight pictures, so night shots it had to be before I slowly released her into the inky blackness, watching her drop down into the dark water and swim away strongly.

I shared a drink with my friends, several in fact, and we sat there talking for some time, until they left, and I was on my own, still smiling. I spent the night there, with no rods out, in a state of happiness that can't be matched... my greatest angling achievement, but one with a lot of help from my friends.

The following day I packed up slowly and left for the last time a magical place that was so kind to me, and in only two nights I had managed the unthinkable. Without doubt there is a fair bit of luck involved in these captures, right time right place, but it shows that it can be done on limited time if you at least give yourself the opportunity.

To my friends Wayne and Adam, Essential Baits, Trakker and Gardner Tackle, my sincere thanks. With winter coming I knew where I was going for some relaxing social fishing, and I can't wait for a new challenge this spring, but I'll never forget the events of that magical day. ■



It wasn't an easy barrow trip around.





# 25 Years of Bait

Part One by Steve Briggs



**T**wenty-five years of Big Carp is an impressive milestone to reach – congratulations, Rob! I remember very well picking up the phone, and Rob was on the other end asking if I wanted to contribute to a new magazine that he was starting up. I'm very proud to say that I was in that first issue of Big Carp and still contributing today.

I don't know how many people reading this were actually fishing in 1990 – or even born for that matter. A lot has changed since then right across the board, but it's the bait scene that I'm going to talk about here. Many changes may have taken place, but as you will see, a lot of the main bait companies that are around today started around the time Big Carp was getting off the ground. So it was clearly a time when a great deal was going on in the world of carp fishing, and it was a great time to be a budding carp angler.

Going into the 1990s, one of the most respected names on the bait front was Geoff Kemp. We were just coming to the end of the milk protein boom, and Geoff's baits very much reflected that boom. Of course ready-made baits were a new phenomenon, and most people were still making the vast majority of bait by hand. As was the norm then, Geoff Kemp had a list of ingredients that you could buy, which was largely dominated by the milk proteins such as casein, lactalbumin and the caseinates, both sodium and calcium. It was up to people to then design their own mixes, or if they didn't want to do that, they could buy one of the Master Mixes, the highest quality and most expensive of those was the Ultra Mix,



which was 86% protein and cost £10 a kilo back then, which was for a bait that you still had to buy the flavours and the eggs for and roll it yourself! So I guess that makes many of today's baits look not quite as expensive as some people think. Geoff Kemp also had some of the most popular flavours around at the time, and ones such as Green Zing, Mellow Brandy and Evaporated Milk and Ice Cream will stir some memories out there.

The shop shelves looked very different back then to how they do today. Most were filled with various ingredients with a few dedicated mixes. SBS were one company that upped the game a bit when they started producing their ingredients in foil-wrapped bags instead of the usual plastic, and that was something that proved to be very popular at the time. Also they were one of the first companies to have a range of ethyl alcohol flavours such as Strawberry Jam, Sweet Plum and Frustraw. Sweet Plum was cer-

**(Above) The Pet was the biggest fish in Farlows Lake at the beginning of the 90s and one of the few day ticket 30s around.**

**(Below left) Geoff Kemp was very much a part of the milk protein boom, and his ingredients and flavours were some of the most popular at the time.**

tainly one of my all-time favourites that I caught many fish on. Ethyl alcohol flavours were popular, as the base allowed the flavour to disperse more quickly than the old ones such as glycerol.

Hand rolling bait was obviously very time consuming, but it was all we really knew then, and generally people didn't use the amounts of bait then that are more commonplace now. But as always when there was a need for something or an opening, it didn't take long for someone to come up with a product to help, and we started to see the first of many bait-making tools. The first were quite crude looking pliers, which had two half cups on the end and when







**When asked, eight out of ten carp anglers who expressed a preference, said their carp preferred it.**

squeezed into the bait dough, would produce one roundish ball. That was never going to be enough, and before long the first rolling tables started to come onto the scene. They were a big step forward and are still in use in much the same form today by many people. For the first time people could start to make bait in uniform sizes and in greater numbers, much to the despair of wives and girlfriends all around the country, whose kitchens were being taken over by anglers

concocting all sorts of weird and wonderful carp baits.

It goes without saying that there was a demand for bait that could be bought all ready to use. Richworth had already cornered the market in that respect. They had already produced the first freezer readymades, and their way of ensuring that they got into most shops around the country was to supply their own freezers to each shop! It was a great idea for sure, and they were a regular sight in

most shops. Of course at the time the purists were very much against this form of bait, and they were branded 'crap baits' by many who believed that milk proteins were the real quality baits to use. The fact was that the carp didn't always agree though, and many people caught well on those 'crap baits', and often from quite difficult waters too!

As good as all of that was, we were about to see something that would change everyone's views on carp baits when the early 1990s saw the start of the fishmeal boom. After the invention of the hair rig, the fishmeal boom probably had more effect on the carp scene than anything else ever has done since. It was an amazing time, and I'm pleased to say that I was around to see the start of it all. The baits were of course the brainchild of Geoff Bowers and the Premier Baits company. Fishmeals weren't totally new, as Rod Hutchinson had his own Seafood Blend years before, but it's fair to say that these new baits and



**(Top) Richworth produced the first widely available freezer readymades. (Left) A regular sight at the start of the 1990s. Terry Dempsey, Tony Moore and Steve Wade busy rolling their Premier fishmeals on the banks of Darent Lakes.**



the way that they were used took carp baits onto another level!

No one really saw it coming, but Geoff had given his bait to the very capable pairing of Terry Dempsey and Tony Moore for the start of the new season at Darenth. The bait in itself was groundbreaking – not just for the fishmeal base but for the use of the fish oils, which were used in large amounts for the first time. The oils were mixed with the eggs for making the bait, but also the finished boilies were ‘glugged’ in fish oil afterwards too! The famous mix of the time was the Fish Base Mix with Fish Feed Oil and Peach Melba flavour, and that was a bait that many people would go on to use in the next few years. With their usual confidence in their ability Terry and Tony fished in the Rails swim on the Tip Lake at Darenth and before the start put a lot of bait out – at least what was considered a whole lot at the time! The other anglers weren’t too impressed with what they were witnessing, as was often the case when someone came in with



something different, and most probably thought they were wasting their time.

Indeed a few days into the new

**(Above) Geoff Bowers was the man behind the start of the fishmeal boom. (Left) A big Harefield brace taken on fishmeals in the early 1990s.**



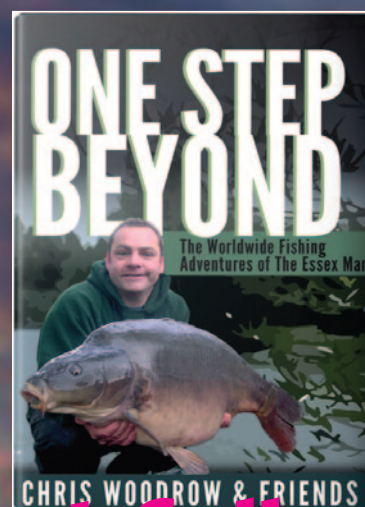
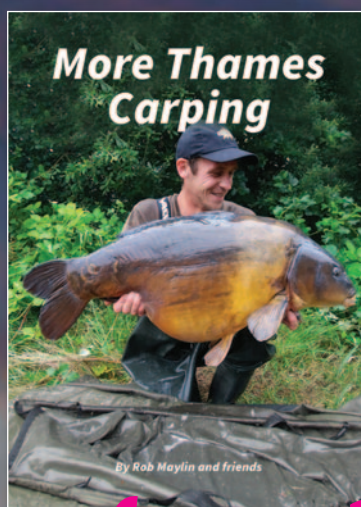
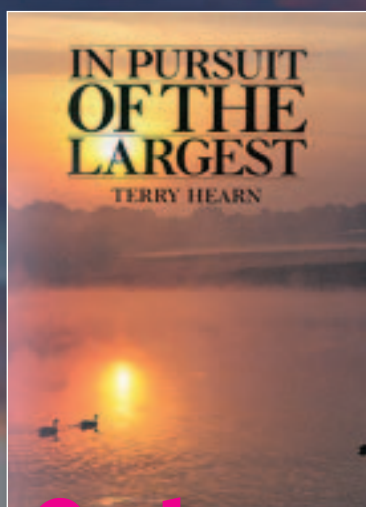
season Terry and Tony had very little to show for their efforts and were starting to wonder if they’d got it right, but then things started to happen, and what happened next was a glimpse into the future, as not only did they start catching but they started catching everything, and almost every fish in the lake ended up in front of their swim. Their results went beyond what had ever been seen on the lake before and fish that were considered quite difficult to catch were slipping up two or three times in quick succession. They caught all of the known big ones: Big H, Scar Bar, Chubby Chops, the Parrot and many more, and not only did they keep catching, but the fish all put on several pounds very quickly; they simply loved the fishmeal baits, and it opened the eyes of everyone around.

It not only changed people’s view on the type of bait they wanted to use but also the amounts. Terry and Tony started a trend of rolling their baits up on the bank such was the need for a regular supply of fresh bait. The normal trend soon became to introduce 70 eggs’ worth of bait at the start of a session, and then every day rolling perhaps the same again as the fish devoured it all.

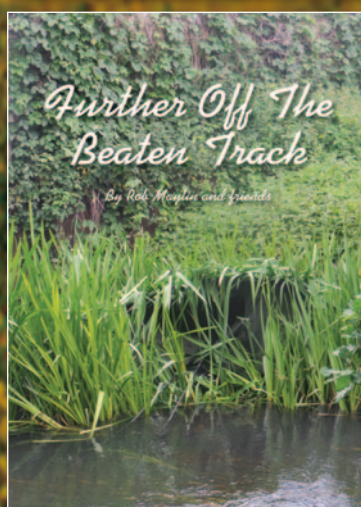
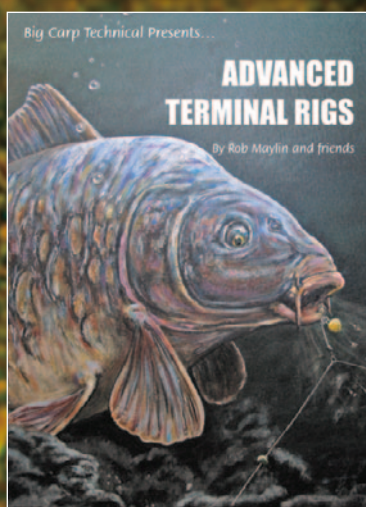
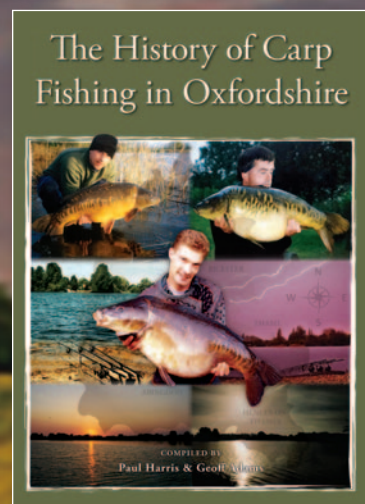
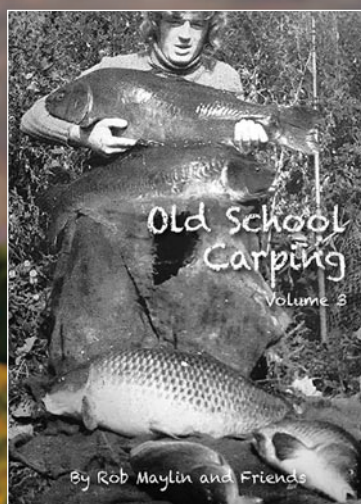
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# SPRING INT



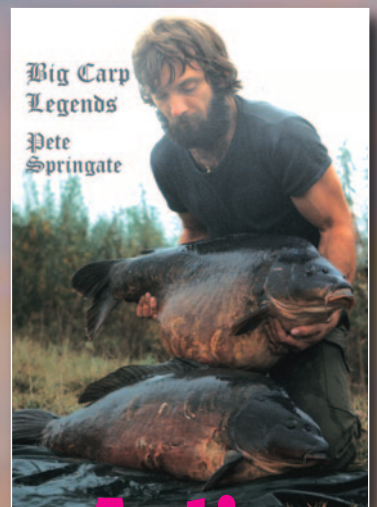
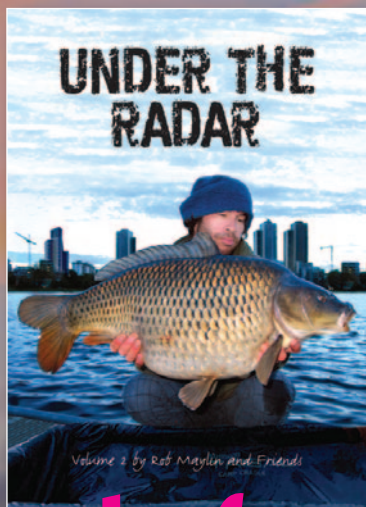
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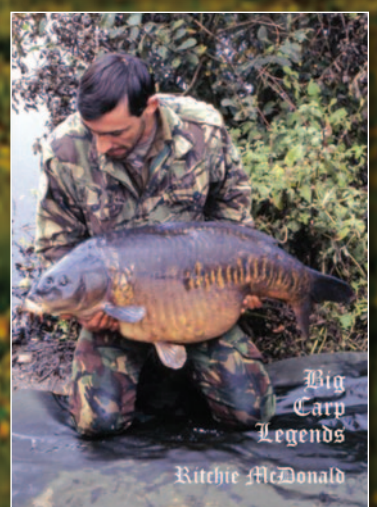
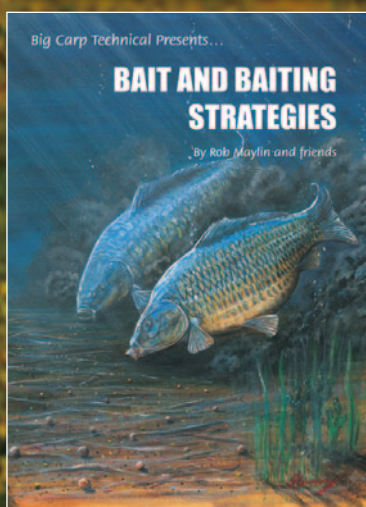
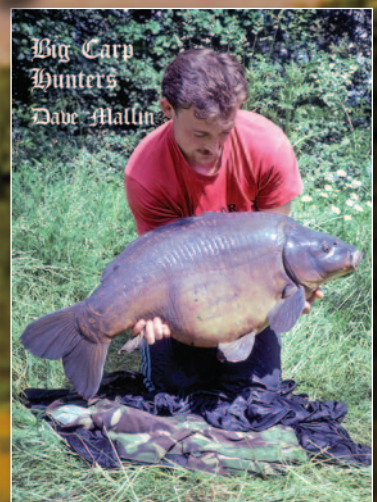
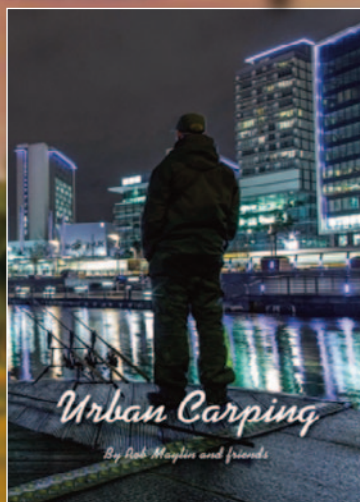
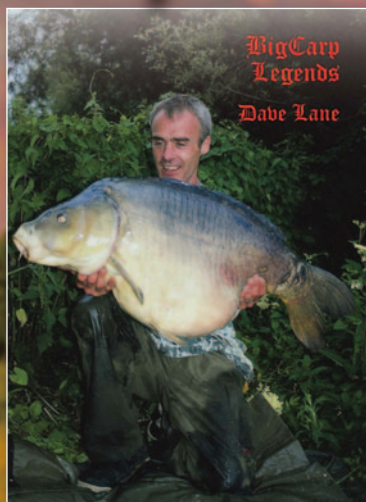
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A man with long, curly brown hair and a slight smile is holding a large, dark-colored carp. He is wearing a dark green t-shirt with the 'SamOnline' logo in yellow. The fish is held horizontally in front of him, resting on his lap. The background shows a body of water and green foliage.

# 25 Years in the Pursuit of England's Biggest Carp

Part One by Dave Lane

Horton - I loved it there.



**W**hen Rob asked me to write about twenty-five years of carp fishing I thought, wow, have I been angling that long? Then I did the maths, subtracted twenty-five from 2016 and arrived back in 1991, and realised that it's been a whole lot longer – over fifteen years longer! From an early age I fished for carp, freelining lumps of sausage, floating crust or sitting there watching a quill float with a huge chunk of bread flake beneath it. In the mid-seventies all that changed, and along came the 'cult' form of carp fishing that we still engage in today; buzzers and boilies, bivvies and matching rods.

In the late seventies I started rolling my own boilies. I bought an old mince grinder from a car boot fair, and I ground up cat biscuits and soya to make a sticky mess that boiled up nicely to resemble a bag of pebbles. By the early eighties I had broken the twenty-pound barrier and moved my fishing up to the Xanadu of carp fishing, the promised lands that lay along

**(Top) Two-Tone – happy days.  
(Below) Mary at fifty-plus.**







the banks of the River Colne. In fact it was during my time in the Colne Valley that I first met Rob, although the memory is a bit sketchy to say the least.

We were in the Horse and Barge

pub, situated right smack bang in the middle of everything. Savay was within catapult distance, and Harefield was visible from the pub window. It was late, the pub was heaving with carp anglers, and we were all

incredibly drunk. Suddenly a melee started up at the bar; Rob hove into view along with some other of the Savay boys, and they all broke into a well-rehearsed song that had something to do with the rope operated barge at Savay. They even had a sort of dance routine to go with the words; it was quite bizarre but hilarious all the same.

Moving forward in time I'd completed a four-year stint in the Valley, fishing at Pit Four and Harefield and catching two new personal bests up to thirty-four pounds, which were huge back then. Somehow I escaped with both my brain and my liver almost intact, and, exactly twenty-five years ago, I secured a ticket for Horton Church Lake, the new home of most of the old Longfield carp, and I was thrust into the world of fishing for big carp, and I really do mean BIG carp.

Although the basics have not changed too dramatically, there was a different feel to carp angling back

**(Top) Enjoying every minute of it.  
(Below) The awesome Sonning Eye.**





We still have some very limited space available for 2023, if you would like to join us this year, please get in touch ASAP.

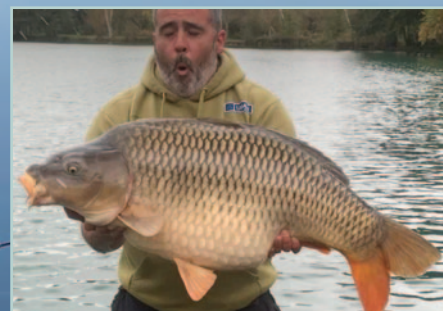
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*Mark Kelynack*



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then and no, I am not getting all nostalgic, and neither am I bemoaning the death of real carp angling, but there was definitely a different vibe. Nowadays there is more of a serious element in the sport. In part this is down to the competitive element brought about by the perceived rivalry in the bait and brands market, and even your clothing can announce

your allegiances. Back then my clothing was bordering on the absurd – purple Converse Joggers and brightly coloured T-shirts was the norm, but I didn't really care, as I was only interested in two things: the carp and the inevitable celebrations after somebody actually caught one.

Horton held carp beyond my wildest dreams, and it was in my first

**(Above) My sort of fishing.**  
**(Bottom) The Black Mirror returns.**

year on there that I managed to stalk my first forty-pound carp, Jack the Net Ripper, which I hooked on a floater at extremely close quarters. At the time I was hidden in the bushes, perfectly camouflaged in a bright pink T-shirt and white shorts! Shortly after

the capture I was asked by Rob to pen a few words for his new magazine, Big Carp, which turned out to be my first ever article, and I wouldn't even like to hazard a guess at how many I have written since. In fact writing about carp has become a major part of how I earn my living. It's funny how you can look back and pick out the little turning points that have such a huge effect on your life, and to think that I was thrown out of English lessons in only my fourth year at secondary school.

For me the magic of Horton was created, in part, by the fact that it was a brand new syndicate and held none of the 'us and them' nonsense that an established lake sometimes suffers from. We were all on a level playing field, and we played hard and partied even harder. Some of the guys I met while waiting at the gates the day before the first season started are still firm friends even now, two and a half decades later. We travelled on a voyage of discovery together and formed bonds that will never be broken by something as inconsequential as the passage of time.

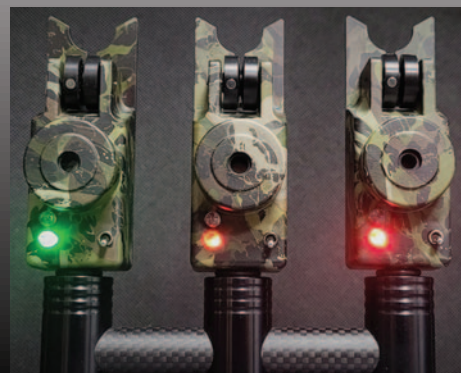
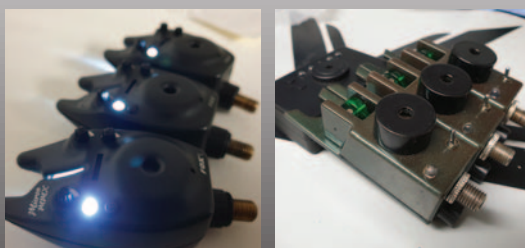
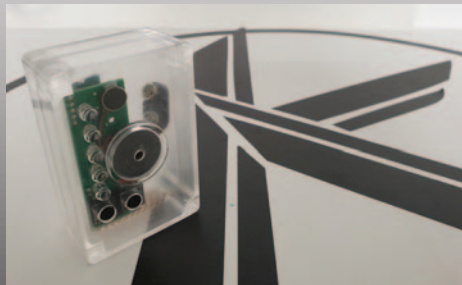
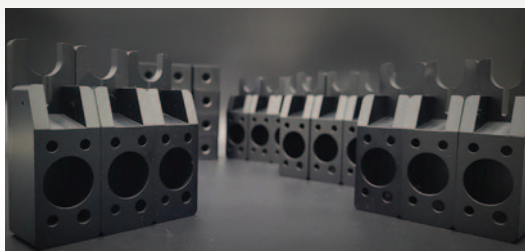
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# The Clear Pit

By Rick Hurley



**T**he Clear Pit is a lovely big pit in Surrey, situated right next to the M3 Motorway. Like most of the pits along the M3, they were dug around 1971 to provide gravel for the construction of the motorway. They are generally crystal clear, deep, and quite large and contain some lovely old carp from the first stockings in the early 1970s. The Clear Pit is a largish pit around 25-30 acres. It has depth ranging from a few feet up to 22 feet. As the name suggests, it is crystal clear, choked with weed in the summer and contains very few fish that are extremely hard to catch. The lake has a small pit right next to it, which was initially part of the big one, but years ago it was made into two separate waters. The small one – around five acres – is pretty much a smaller version of the big lake; deep and clear with some very hard to catch carp in it.

The waters were leased by a club that was mainly joined by match and river anglers, with their waters consisting of small, highly stocked lakes and some lovely stretches of local rivers. The club took the lease on the small pit for its tench and pike anglers to have a specimen option, and, knowing it had a few carp in, to also try and boost the membership numbers by attracting the ever-growing number of carp anglers. As the lease also came with the adjoining big lake, the committee thought it would be good to have some specimen waters to get the carp anglers off their smaller waters.

The club was an old long-standing club that concentrated primarily on their match fishing and their smaller highly stocked lakes for about 90% of their members that joined for this reason. The other 10% or so of carp and specimen anglers were generally ignored, and this continues right up to this present day as the club committee are made up of pleasure and match anglers. At the AGMs (Annual General Meeting), any carp angler that attended were almost treated as outcasts and were never really listened to. I remember fishing one of their small lakes on quite a regular basis in the late 1980s with a few friends. It had quite a lot of carp in it up to low twenties, which was quite good for that time. You would have



dozens of old fellas around the lake float fishing luncheon meat in the margins fishing all day for one or maybe two small singles, whereas we would go in with floaters and have up to 20 fish in a day. This was not popular with the regulars. After a few sessions slaying the fish off the top, the committee would have an emergency meeting and ban all floater fishing, then all of those “ghastly beeping alarms”, as they put it, were banned, and then they banned boilies and having two rods. It was comical looking back on it now. They really did hate us!

It was now time to move over onto the small clear pit and try and catch one of those old carp. We knew it was difficult fishing, as my mate's dad, who was a life member of the club, told us in the 15-odd years he had known the water, he had only seen a few carp caught, mainly by tench anglers not targeting them. Not a great start, but we didn't have any other carp waters to fish, so we decided to give it a go.

On our first recce of the lake, we saw quite a few carp due to it being a sunny day and the water being so clear. We said to ourselves, “We can catch these” as we could see them clearly along every bank. We soon found out that seeing them didn't mean catching them and realised fishing here was a massive step up, but looking back, I wouldn't change a thing, as it taught me so much and really made me up my game to try

and bank one.

Over the years, we probably had maybe half a dozen pickups off of the bottom, losing and landing a few, but most of our success came from stalking and floater fishing, landing some of the most amazing looking little commons but no mirrors. Over time, we drifted away from the small clear pit and onto lakes that had a few more carp in them.

I started fishing waters like Stillwater, Frensham Little Pond and Cutt Mill, catching loads of quality fish and pretty much forgot about the Clear Pits until a good friend of mine, Ben Hamilton of Thinking Anglers, had caught a very rare carp from the Big Pit. I remember looking at the photo and thinking, what a prehistoric looking fish. It had me blown away and it was all I could think of. I soon finished fishing the waters I was on, leaving with no unfinished business, as I had caught most of the big'uns from Stillwater front and back lakes and had managed a lovely long mid-thirty mirror from Frensham Little Pond, which was for me the fish of a lifetime, as there were only a few in the 30-acre pond. After catching it, my fishing life was made almost unbearable due to the Frensham bailiffs that were seriously hacked off that an 18-year-old boy had caught one their beloved Leney. Now anyone who fished Frensham in the 1990s will know what I am talking about – vandalised cars, verbal abuse, threats, continuous rig checks, tickets being taken away



for no reason, pretty much angling hell really! It is such a shame as the water was so nice and steeped in history. As I was only 18 and my fishing buddy was 16, we were pretty much forced off of the water by these bully-boys.

Anyway... enough of that! I will get back to talking about the beautiful clear pits. I initially thought I would start on the small lake, as I would love one of the mirrors out of it whilst keeping an eye out on the big one, baiting a few chosen spots for a season. I chose to bait an area of the big lake called the Channel, as it was right next to the small lake, and during the summer I had heard some absolute chunks lumping out, so I thought that was a good starting point. I actually cut myself a swim out to fish, as there was a broken down willow in the water that the fish would sun themselves under. The channel was about 300 yards long and had a swim at both ends and one in the middle. The one in the middle was very close to where I wanted to fish but had another sunken tree in the way of the area I wanted to fish and was way too open. I would stick out like a sore thumb as the swim was

so open, and it also had a big white garden chair sitting there on the bottom of the lake. This would have been right on my line lay, so I decided against it. I decided to cut a new swim out right on the area I wanted to fish so that I knew it hadn't been fished when it came to fishing it next season. All of my baiting was done through a small gap in the trees. The gap was unfishable due to how small it was, but enough for me to bait up through.

After a season on the small lake and catching around a dozen fish up to a mid-twenty mirror, which was really good for the lake, I decided it was time to target the long old scaly one I'd seen Ben holding.

I was raring to go as the baited spot was gleaming and had also gone from 8ft deep to just over 9ft deep where the fish had been digging so much. I cleared a small area in the trees, enough for two rods and a small area out of sight of the water for my brolly just behind in the brambles. After this work was done I was ready.

It was June and the next three months were prime time, so I was buzzing to fish it. The area just in front of the fallen tree was only a few

rod lengths in front of the swim, which was a reasonably easy under-arm cast for my left rod. Now the spot was small so I could only have one rod on it. The right hand rod was fished along the right hand margin wall out of the way of the main rod with the line lay well away from the main area running along the right hand margin. It was a pretty much redundant rod really, and I never had anything from it over the two years. I could have fished just the one rod, but as the lake was mega difficult, I wanted to maximise my chances and didn't want another line going out into the channel to risk spooking them – one line was enough.

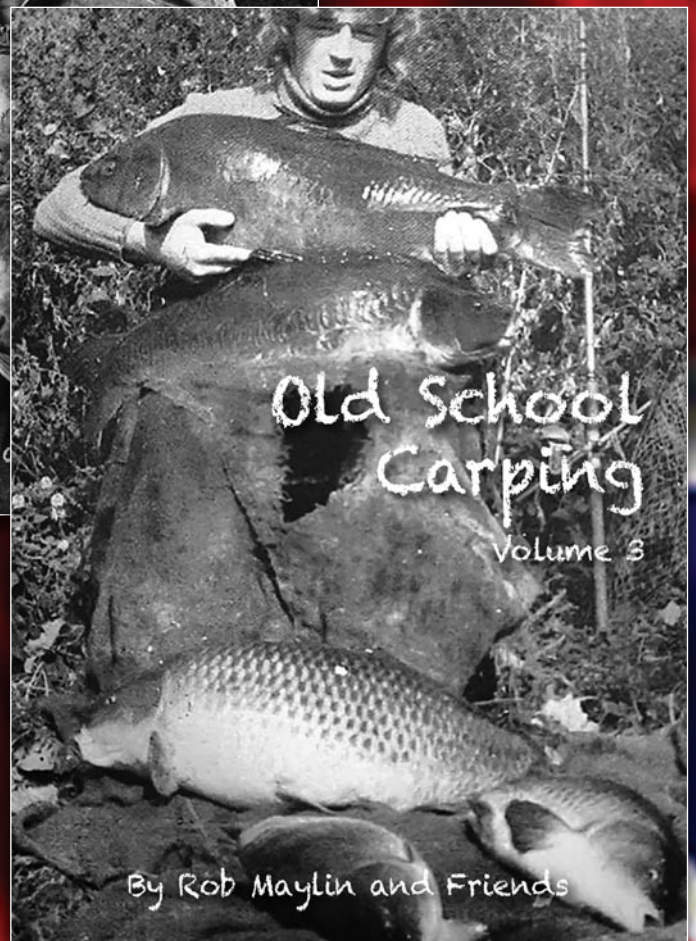
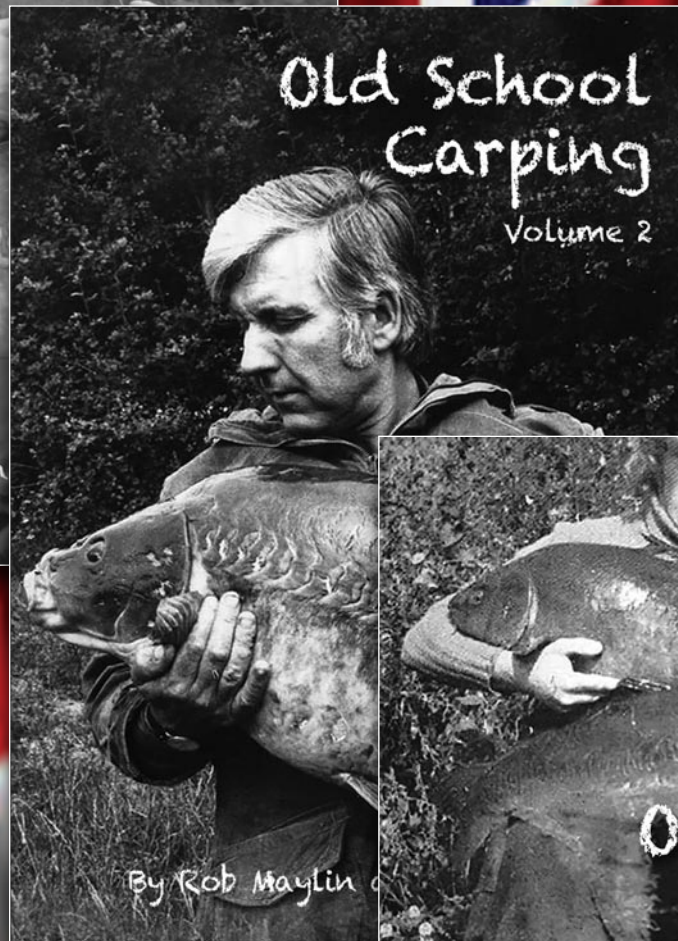
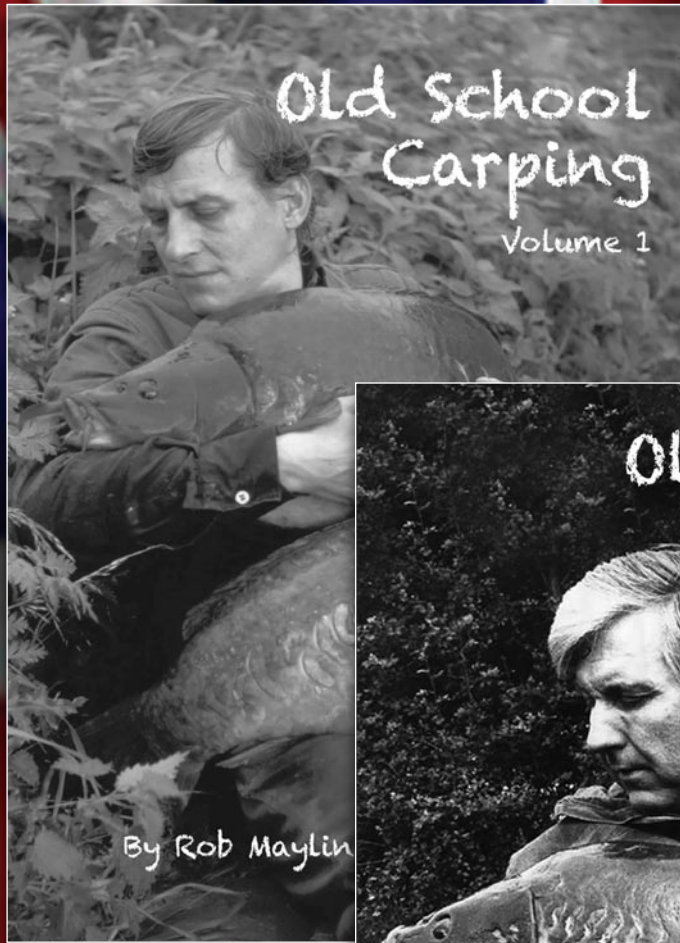
I continued the same baiting strategy of a 50/50 mix of hemp and mixed sized halibut pellets, putting in a bucket every other day with my chosen boilie mixed in, in whole 20mm bait, crumbed and chopped. I was a bit dubious about using the 20mm baits, as the fish in question had an abnormally small mouth for an upper 30. I would see it feed so lightly on naturals and the small food baits; it tended to eat all the pellet and hemp first with bits of the crumb, then would liven up and take the 20mms,



**The mid-thirty Leney on my first visit to Frensham Little Pond that got the bailiffs irritated!**



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**29lb Clear Pit common.**

eventually clearing the spot every time. Some would say why not use a 10mm or a 14mm, but the problem with that is there are a lot of tench in the water. I had never seen a bream in the channel snags, as they tended to shoal up out in the open water, but the channel was rife with tench. After all, it was a prime tench water, producing the British tench record at over 15lb to Tetley. I know the 20mms wouldn't stop me catching the doubles and certainly not the 15lb'er but they might give me a respite against the 5-8lb ones.

Now I've not said much about the lake's stock as there are very few in there: the big scaly one was I was after and there were also two big commons, a long, lean one and a shorter dumpy one, both probably around the 40lb mark, and a sandy looking fish that Ben Hamilton and I had both seen and knew it definitely wasn't the scaly one as it was a totally different colour. We only saw the Sandy one, as we called it, a few

times over the hundreds of times watching the water, and it was never caught. Ben came very close stalking one time, which left him devastated, as it picked up and dropped his bait right in front of his eyes. There were a few other fish present, mainly small commons and one or two nicked from the sailing club next door, all in all about 20-30 fish in 30 acres with nearly all being small commons but with those four big'uns. I think the two big commons might have been landed off of the top years ago, but not the Sandy. There were one or two anglers on there that didn't believe the Sandy was in there, as they had never seen it, but I suppose they're not going to see it bivvied up in open water, drinking loads of beer. And they wonder why it took 50-plus nights to get a bite!

Anyway, the fish I was after was catchable, but not easy by any means. It had only been caught about eight or nine times in 20 years, with one angler catching it and not having

another bite for seven years! The scaly one had not been caught for over two years, last caught by Terry Hearn and featured in his book. He rates it as one of the best-looking carp he had ever caught. Believe me, it certainly was a proper one.

The first month of fishing went by with no carp... plenty of tench, but no carp. I remember being up a tree watching two mid double commons all over my spot, clearing all the bait and then swimming off leaving just the hookbait remaining – disheartening to say the least. I was doing an overnighter from Monday-Thursday, arriving at 9pm, which left just enough time to get the rod out on the spot before dark and leaving at 7am. The bite time for carp was from midnight to 3am, as this was when I caught two small commons and when they were most active. Over a month of fishing it you would get two, maybe three nights where from midnight to 3am they would go mental, crashing all down the channel and



you kind of knew you were going to have one. The two nights they went mental, I had the two small commons.

July was here and it was very hot sitting under my brolly surrounded by high brambles. I would have to go out onto the path to cool down, as I couldn't breathe in this tight swim with no wind flow. I had to keep all movement in the swim to an absolute minimum though, as the fish were so spooky. I remember being woken up at 2am by a massive crash just up from my spot. It sounded like someone had fallen in! Sitting there unable to sleep, knowing a big'un was close, I lit a fag, and the fish spooked, bow waving off, having been spooked by the flash of my lighter. As you can imagine, I was standing there in disbelief that the fish had spooked from a lighter flash and thinking, "Well, that's my chance gone."

It was mid-July, and a take at 2am felt like a much better fish. Playing it, shaking, I finally got it in the net after it had been snagged twice. Anyone who fishes these mega difficult, big pits for wily carp will know the heart-in-the-mouth feeling of turning the

head torch on and seeing what is sitting there in your net. Happy days! It wasn't the big scaly one, but a jet-black upper twenty common, a truly amazing fish. I was the only one on the lake as usual, so I carefully sacked it up and got my missus to get a cab down to the lake first light. Now Teresa wasn't best happy being woken up at first light, but as she is also an angler, she knew what this fish meant and was straight down. When I peeled back the sack from the fish, she was blown away by how nice it was and understood why she hadn't seen me much. She did some lovely photos for me and I slipped the fish back. I remember whispering to it as I returned it saying, "Tell your big scaly mate I will see him soon." I packed away and was off to work a happy boy.

I couldn't wait to get back down there as that two-day window normally happened back to back. I finished work and was back in the swim. Everything was set just as the previous night and I had never been so confident of a bite, as one leapt out of the water at 10pm. Just up from

me, my mate Rob was fishing two swims up in an area called the Dugout. It was only two swims away but a good 500-yard walk. Bearing in mind the lake's 30-odd acres with only ten swims.

I remember being woken up at 3am to a blistering take. Standing there in my socks in the full moon, watching this fish tear up the channel with my rod bent to the butt, I remember thinking this is no small fish. It went straight for a sunken willow tree and ploughed into it and stopped. It went solid. Panic was about to set in, but after a few minutes, in the moonlight, I could see the tree actually moving, and after some steady pressure I was back in control, well, sort of! The fish came straight to the net. I was using 12ft 6in rods at the time and kept on getting caught in the trees above. I ended up putting the butt of the rod into the lake to get enough leverage to steer it towards the net. It came from the right to left quickly, visibly beaten, and went straight over the waiting net. I could just lift the net in time. It was a full moon, very bright, and I knew which fish it was due to



The Scaly One second time around at 42lb 12oz.





its length. As it swam over the net, one of the net arms touched its tail and it went mental. It powered down the margins to the right. There was no chance of stopping it, and after a few moments, I started to feel it grating on sunken trees 20 yards out to the right. It had snagged itself again.

Now at this point, I was getting emotional after almost having it in the net and knowing it was my target fish. Five minutes had passed, and the fish was on the move again. At this point, I had been playing it for over half an hour. It was swimming back towards the swim, and when it was in front of me, I gave it a lot more pressure than I would normally, as I thought, I don't think I am going to be lucky enough to get it out of one of those sunken trees a third time. Amazingly, it came in head first, which allowed me to net it a lot easier, as it was so long, and in she went. I remember clicking on my head torch, already knowing which fish it was, but seeing it in the flesh, those paw print scales and how dark it was, I was overwhelmed. I couldn't believe it! Finally all my hard work had paid off! On cloud nine, I texted the select few fishing the lake that I'd caught it, forgetting it was nearly 4am, but nevertheless, getting the congratulations from the anglers I had messaged. Rob came around at first light to do the weighing and the photos. She weighed 39lb 9oz. We shared the moment just the two of us, got some great photos and slipped the fish back. Believe me when I say that was the most enjoyable pack away ever! I finished fishing that year on another

water and had a great end to the season.

I still liked to walk around the water, as it was close to my house. I remember one sunny day being up the tree in the swim I had caught the scaly one from and saw one of the big commons just sitting on the spot. I had to rub my eyes, as it looked massive. In the space of two weeks, I'd seen her twice on the spot and convinced myself to have another go. I was going to mirror what I did the previous season, as it was a successful way to the target the water. I baited exactly the same, same mix in the same quantities. One thing led to another, and my first session back on there was exactly one year ago to the day that I'd caught my target, but I had been prepping the water for six or seven weeks prior. I was lying there on my bedchair, thinking about the

common I'd seen and drifted to sleep.

The next thing I remember was being up to my chest in water, at 3am, trying to beef an absolute unit of a fish out of the sunken tree in the margin, and after a 20-minute fight, I had a big'un in the net. I was convinced it was the big common, but when I clicked my head torch on, I saw it was the big scaly one again. I could not believe I had caught it twice on exactly the same night and time as the previous year. I was mega happy to have caught it, but have never been one for recaptures, and deep down knew I had taken the capture away from one of the good lads on there. On the scales she was a bit bigger than a year ago at 42lb 12oz. I did a few self-takes and packed away, knowing it was certainly the end of a chapter and I would probably never fish the lake again. On walking back to the car, I noticed a few fish sucking at the scum that had built up on a corner of the small lake. I whipped a rod out and had a go for them. I managed an 18lb common and a 23lb common in the space of an hour. That was three fish in 24 hours – almost unheard of for the lakes, and a cracking way to finish.

Just remember these sorts of waters are very hard, but just persevere, watch and try and piece together the puzzle. As long as your rig and line is the best it can be, you are in the right place and you're fishing when that small window of opportunity arises, you will eventually get a chance.

Be lucky all, and I hope all your angling dreams come true. ■







# FISHING RESORT



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**Lake Review – February 2016**

## **Buckland Lake Fishery**

**Buckland Road, Cliffe, Kent, ME3 7RT - By Kevin Goss and Paul Wood**

**T**o start the year off with a bang, here at Big Carp Promotions we have been given the task of fishing and reviewing a great day ticket water down in the southeast. Now in the hands of a new management team, Buckland Lake Fishery is brought to you here in Big Carp Magazine.

Not as yet a very well known fishery, it is sure to make a name for itself in the coming months and years. It will firmly establish itself on the commercial day ticket scene, and with the hard work of lake manager Scott and his team, they will certainly create a very special fishery indeed. This complex has something for everyone and is a fishery that is going to produce some very big carp in the not too distant future. With its crystal clear waters and abundance of naturally



occurring foods, it has already produced some very big, healthy and hard fighting fish, so when adding to this its lovely surroundings and quality amenities on site, it really has everything an angler could want for a new challenge in 2016... and when you see the pictures of the carp you will understand just how special some of these fish are.

Buckland Lake Fishery in Kent will become a recognised name among anglers, and we can't wait to start showing you the total package that comes when fishing this very good day ticket water.

Starting from the beginning and a little about Buckland's history and origins, this former chalk quarry was excavated in the 1960s. When works were finally finished, the pumps were ultimately turned off, and it was left to flood in the early 70s, helping create the vast expanse of water you can see today. With a total complex size of around 60 acres, 50 acres of this huge pit are unfishable, with only the eastern end of the lake being sectioned off. The construction that has taken place was to create the fishery itself, and it was initially being used as a trout lake, but since then it has taken shape and been stocked to create three very diverse fishing lakes, including multiple species in all three, with trout, coarse and specimen carp fishing now on offer.

The whole complex has everything you could possibly want from a day ticket water with all the boxes being ticked to make sure your stay is as





comfortable as possible. There's an onsite tackle shop stocking plenty of essential tackle items and bait that you might need when getting on the bank. Finding you're running low or run out of certain tackle items is something we have all done, and onsite shops today have become an integral part of any well-run fishery. You have an onsite café, which serves food and drinks from 9am to around 2pm every day and has extremely good toilet and shower facilities (catering for both male and female) if you are on a longer session. There are also very clean and well-kept Portaloos situated near the fishery office. Parking is free, and the car parks have capacity to hold plenty of cars, so there's no trouble parking around the fishery and getting to your swims. It's also locked during the night, as secu-



rity is always very important here at Buckland. You can also buy a depth map of all three lakes, if you so wish, to help in choose exactly where you might fancy setting up and fishing ([www.contourmapfishing.co.uk](http://www.contourmapfishing.co.uk)). Everything has been thought of and been taken care of when it comes to

the comfort and convenience of its anglers at Buckland fishery.

Starting at the coarse lake, and at around two acres in size with depths of anything from a few feet up to 17ft in places, the fish have plenty of space to hide, so make sure you have a good feel about with the marker rod

before setting up, finding any features that might be lurking at the bottom and which could herald a fish or two. There are carp of all sizes from 3lb upwards to an average of around 10lb, with the odd 20lb carp still present in the lake as well. So you could always hook into one of the bigger prizes and make it an extra special session. Over the past 18 months Scott the fishery manager and his team have completed extensive work all over the lakes, with wooden platforms constructed on all swims making fishing very comfortable indeed. There is extremely good disabled access to most swims on this lake, with single, double or even triple swims available. There are around 24 swims in total on the coarse lake, so if you would like to book the lake for some private fishing please enquire with the fishery for details.

Last but not least is the fishery's Specimen Lake and crowning jewel in

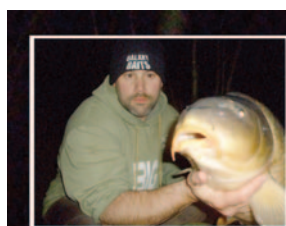




the Buckland complex. The lake is around eight acres and connected but sectioned off via a net from the larger 50-acre water, with depths reaching a huge 30ft in parts. The lake has some very good features beneath the surface, so finding these will definitely help catch some of their more elusive fish. It allows a maximum of six anglers at any one time, giving you all a good amount of water to fish in comfortably.

Believe us when we say it's not an easy water, but the carp are without a doubt as beautiful and as pristine as you could want, well worth every effort to get in amongst them. There are carp reaching to the mid 30s, and with a stock of around 60-plus, some originals and some stocked a few years ago, BC Promotions team member Kevin Goss found one of the reasons why people love to fish this fantastic water.

Kevin was on his last review session, a short 24-hour trip with team member Ricky Westpfel, when he hooked into one of the lake's beautiful common carp at around 11pm on the Saturday night. Fishing tight to the reed line from across the lake, over a bed of Galaxy Baits Bloodworm boilie, he now holds the lake record common carp at 29lbs, a fish that has rarely been caught before – something that will stay with him for a life-



**Kevin with the new lake record common at 29lb.**



time and one of the reasons we all love to get behind those rods. If you are looking for a new place to fish we highly recommend Buckland Fishery as a good place to start.

All in all Buckland fishery is still quite young in terms of day ticket waters with work going on all the time to help improve all aspects of the fishery. Swims are being made and updated to a very high standard, plus with other developments going on

like extending the size of the tackle shop and constant upkeep and looking after the stock of fish they have at Buckland, it will not be long before everyone will be talking about this super day ticket water. Prices are very reasonable, and with the quality this fishery holds in its lakes, it's worth every penny. Scott and his team are always on hand to help, and their advice is invaluable if fishing the lakes for the first time. There's great hospitality and if you are unsure of



**This 35lb mirror is the current lake record.**

## FISHING PRICES PER PERSON

Coarse Lake and Specimen Lake (catch and release only).  
(Overnight fishing by appointment only, please phone the manager first for approval).

Specimen Lake – £15.00, £20.00 for an overnight ticket, £28.00 for a 24-hour ticket

Coarse Lake – £10.00 for two rods all day. £20.00 for an overnight ticket, £25.00 for a 24-hour ticket.

Buckland Fishery special offer – Buy five day tickets at the lakes and get the sixth FREE! An offer not to be missed!

anything don't hesitate to ask the experts. Thanks from the whole BC Promotions team for a great experience, and we are looking forward to coming back in the future.

For the entire up to date goings on at Buckland Fishery please visit their website [www.bucklandlake.co](http://www.bucklandlake.co) or visit them on Facebook. If you would like BC Promotions to help showcase your fishery in Big Carp magazine please get in contact at [bigcarppromotions@gmail.com](mailto:bigcarppromotions@gmail.com) for a quote. ■





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# Wasing Way

Part 3 by Craig Runham



**B**efore long Mike came crunching his way over telling me to move over and put the kettle on. I easily agreed, putting the kettle on the already ignited stove. The sun was just beginning to make its rise from the horizon when the middle rod bleeped twice. With our eyes transfixed on the rod, the bobbin became unstuck from its frozen position on the floor, and I watched the line cutting through the water very slowly. It was a take! I couldn't believe my eyes as I rushed over to the rod, whipping it from its frozen position on the rests. I was met with no resistance, and attempted to wind down, but the reel jammed up due to the line being frozen into the line clip. After plucking the line from its icy position behind the clip I wound down and was met with a fish shaking its head.

For the first thirty or yards I led what I thought was a tench back towards the bank. Given the conditions I found it hard to believe that anything had occurred. Suddenly the fish woke up and went on a short run. I was now convinced the culprit was a carp. We were both laughing away to each other as I played what was clearly a carp. I played the fish gently as I doubted a good hookhold for some reason, and I certainly didn't want the fish to fall off that was for sure. I had my Skeetex winter boots on so paddled a few feet to get to a better depth to net the fish from. The water was crystal clear, and we could both see a decent common of over twenty-five pounds twisting and turning in the deep water. We could see the pink pop-up hanging from the fish's bottom lip. The lead had ejected from the Heli-Safe, proving the system was working. After a few heart-stopping moments a golden common

glided into the awaiting net. A large grin came across my face at this point, as I knew how lucky I had been to get the bite. The conditions couldn't have been any worse. On the scales the cold water common went just under twenty-eight pounds. My fingers felt like they were dropping off after the photos. Nothing further occurred that morning, and we were both soon packing away and heading to our warm homes.

With Christmas looming it was time for a break and time for some overtime at work. It wasn't till the middle of January that I was planning my next trip. I pulled up to the gate to my secret heaven one icy cold January morning, the weather doing little to lift my spirits. On inspection of the padlock it was frozen solid, but luckily I had been for breakfast on the way, and soon the hot contents were poured over the frozen lock. After a moment it clunked free. As I drove



The Bus mirror, a fish that hadn't seen the bank in almost five years. My welcome back to Shalford.





**(Top)** With winter starting I moved to the deepest area of the lake in search of winter action.

**(Centre)** During the night the temperatures plummeted to below minus four – it was the coldest night of the winter so far.

**(Bottom)** The bobbins were frozen in position.

through the gate I peered across a winter wonderland... a layer of white covered the ground, and the outside temperature read minus two point five. There had been a light dusting of snow during the night. The sky was clear blue and the ground had frozen solid after the light snow. The conditions were awful, but I couldn't help but feel confident, as I had caught that common in December in similar conditions.

I hadn't been out for around eight weeks, and I did feel out of touch with the place. The only fish out since December was my common and two stunning stockies to my mate Mike Patrick. He had truly deserved the captures, as he had put in a lot of cold nights for his two fish. He had been out in the worst weather imaginable, and his hard work had paid off, both his bites coming within ten mad minutes of each other – top angling, mate!

After a lap around the perimeter of the lake I had not a single sighting to go on. As I emptied the car and began to get the brolly up I heard the gate go. I looked up to see the fisheries manager, Mark, coming through the gate. He came over to me laughing, saying that I must be mental. I could only agree with him, as I thought that myself. I decided to go with previous form and settled for the middle zone of the lake and the area I had previously caught the common from in December. Before long I had the left rod in position followed by a few Cell baits spreader over the top with the stick. The gate went again, and this time good friend Carl Dance pulled through the gate, popping in for a brew. Shaun also came round the corner from the lake next door. I explained I wanted to get the rods out before I put the kettle on. To my surprise they stood there patiently waiting. The second rod was sent out again followed by a few baits. I carefully sunk the Kontour fluorocarbon, pulled off a few meters and placed the rod on the alarm to allow the line to sink.

The gate clunked again, and this time Mike and his missus Shell came through, Mike clutching a Costa coffee. Cheers, mate. I was just balancing the pop-up on the third rod in the edge when I saw the line whip up tight on the rod I had just put out and heard the clutch going. I had to rub





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my eyes as I plucked the bent rod from the rest. Instantly I was forced to pay out line as the fish powerfully surged further into the deep water. I turned round to the mini crowd that was in my swim and cockily said, "It's this easy!" with a big grin on my face. Everyone then gave me some stick, calling me golden balls.

I then began to concentrate, as I felt this was a good fish from the off. It was holding its ground at around sixty yards out. After what seemed like an age a good size common was seen twisting through the clear water. It looked to be a possible thirty-pounder, and my heart jumped a few times as the large-framed fish rolled on the line. Mike joined me from my position on the old wooden jetty with the net. After a few moments the common rose up in the water and went straight into the outstretched net. Mike scooped up my prize first time, and a slap on the back from him felt well deserved for braving the con-

ditions.

The gate went again, and the head bailiff drove through the gate and walked over to the gathered crowd. Usually you are lucky to see one person all weekend, and there were five of us in my swim. He had guessed there was a fish responsible and asked what was in the net, so I replied that it was a thirty-pound common. I lifted the chunky, easily thirty common onto the waiting mat, much to his surprise. He congratulated me and helped with the weighing of the clean looking winter common. I hoisted the scales as everyone peered at the dial, and thirty-two pounds and twelve ounces were agreed! A winter thirty,

**(Top) The result was this stunning bar of gold. It went just a shade shy of twenty-eight pounds. It was my first capture of the winter, and the conditions were as bad as it could possibly be.**

**(Left) Returning the golden block of ice.**





**Mike Patrick deserved his two winter captures. He put in maximum effort and fully deserved this stunning mirror.**



**Mike's second winter capture – another stunning mirror. Well done, mate.**

and my first fish of the year – what a result, considering I had only had the rod out for five minutes or less. I climbed into the waders, as I couldn't resist a water shot with the colours of the fish. The cameras clicked away as I beamed with happiness at what a result I had had considering the weather. The rest of that trip I blanked in style, but it needn't have mattered; I had my result in the shape of my third thirty from Shalford. It was January after all, so it was a very special capture from a lake that does very few bites in the summer, let alone the winter.

After the capture of the thirty-pound common I didn't fish for around five weeks, which was mainly down to the weather doing very little to help my enthusiasm and light my fire. Nothing had been out since my last trip despite a few lads braving the elements and having a go. I planned an overnigher with Mike, as a catch-up was just what was needed. It was time to start to get back into tune



**(Top)** Mark Dean's awesome Koda Pops were my hookbait choice all winter. These were in Mainline Cell flavour.

**(Above)** My hook choice for my winter fishing was the ever-reliable Korda choddies in a size 6.



with the lake; after all, spring was hopefully not too far away. I pulled through the gate and peered at the lake. Mike had already set up, so I had a quick brew with him, and then I set about getting the rods out. Once again I settled into a swim that offered me access to the area that Mike and I had baited most weeks throughout the winter in the bid to keep them moving. We had worked hard for the past five weeks, at least baiting up twice a week with a few kilos of boilies spread in and around the midsection of the lake. The area I chose was one that I knew well, and after a quick flick about with the lead I landed on the firm areas that I had fished all winter. It didn't take too long to get three hinged stiff rigs out in position, and with firm drops on each rod I was happy to be out angling once more.

Around midday a northeasterly had picked up, crashing into the old wooden jetty at the front of the swim.



**Gate Two was the scene of the capture of my biggest common from Shalford.**

The wind was completely Baltic; it was that cold I couldn't sit in the swim comfortably. I popped up to the next swim and told Mike to put the kettle on, hoping a few brews would

warm me up. We both chatted away from the confines of the bivvy out of the fierce northeasterly wind. Around two o'clock the wind began to calm down, and the sun made an appear-



**What a way to start 2015 my first fish of the year and at over thirty two pounds I was extremely happy.**



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# *Legendary Carp Paintings*



- Basil
- Heather
- The Black Mirror
- The Royal Forty
- The Bishop
- The Burghfield Common
- Jumbo
- Two Tone
- Mary and Mary's Mate



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The bobbins were froze in position.

ance. Out of the wind in the sun it actually felt rather spring-like. For the first time this year I actually felt confident of a bite. We were both constantly saying how good the conditions looked when out of the blue my receiver went into meltdown. "That will be a bite then," said Mike as I ran the short distance to the swim.

On approaching the rod I could see the bobbin jammed up against the alarm. I plucked the rod from its position and walked out onto the wooden jetty, illuminated by the sun. The fish stayed deep the whole fight convincing me I was into a rather special fish. After what seemed like an age I had a slow, heavy weight under the tip. I could see from its first roll through the clear water a common was responsible. The sun glistening off the perfectly scaled frame as it tussled for its freedom. With one last run it rose up



I caught a few more from Shalford before the winter began to set in. This common was the pick of the bunch.





Within five minutes the rod was away and this thirty-pound common was the result.



A dumpy twenty-eight pound common, the result of another night in Gate Three. The fish most definitely liked the bait and the area.





through the icy depths, and once again Mike did the honours with the net outstretched and scooped up another scale-perfect common. Once again it looked to be around the thirty-pound mark. Considering the weather, yet again I had been lucky, and at just shy of twenty-nine pounds, it was a proper winter lump.

It certainly brightened up the duller days. Once again the common was the only bite of the trip for the both of us. I drove out of the gate knowing the lake had been very kind to me once again.

I had a spring in my step as I unlocked the gate the following week. I had organised and moved

things around so I could get out for the following weekend. The weather looked perfect as I unlocked the padlock once again, revealing a cold looking, blustery lake. The sun was out, and despite it being the first day of spring the following day it was still relentlessly cold. I could see Mike was also feeling the conditions were right, as he was set up in a swim to the left of the area I had caught from the previous week. After a quick chat and a brew I set about setting up in the same swim as the previous week. Once again the rods didn't take long and were in position by 8am. All three hinge stiff rigs were positioned to the area on the back of a plateau, the same area I had caught well from during all winter. All three rods were felt

**(Top) The following trip I found myself in Gate Three, and the following morning the lake began to freeze.**

**(Below) Just shy of twenty-nine pounds – a proper winter stunner. Given the harsh conditions it was a massive result.**





# The History of Carp Fishing in Oxfordshire

Paul Harris and Geoff Adams

Carp fishing has a very rich history. In the early days of it becoming popular, Kent and the Colne Valley were the hot beds of our fledgling pastime and of course there was the legendary Redmire Pool.

Into the new Millennium and one area above all others exploded onto the scene, this was of course Oxfordshire. The quality of the stock of carp in this county was incredible but where did these beautiful scaly beasts come from? When did the Leney's get stocked? What were the origins of the famous Linch Hill fish and what of the history of the now infamous Linear Fisheries? Over the course of the pages of this book all will be revealed as Paul and Geoff have put together the facts of how these lakes were stocked and also banded together many successful local anglers, some of which have never published any of their catches, who tell their fishing tales on these stunning lakes.

With more than 300 pictures of some of this country's finest ever carp and several full page maps, this huge volume tells the story of Oxfordshire's carp fishing history whilst still leaving a little bit of mystery for your imagination!

Included within the pages of this book is the foreword written by local legendary angler and former tackle dealer Joe Taylor. We have chapters from Paul Kitchin on the legendary Vauxhall Lake. David Brian Williams tells us the story of the lakes in the City of Oxford itself! Chris Robinson has written an incredible chapter on two of Dorchester's lakes. Orchid and The Lagoon. The history told in Chris' chapter on these lakes is just incredible and wait until you see the pictures!

Next door to The Lagoon is Dorchester's Alliance Club Lake and Joe Forrester tells his story of the incredible scaly carp that inhabited this lake and how he outwitted them.

We have a real coup in the fact that brilliant all-round Oxford angler John Everard agreed to be interviewed and he has an incredible amount of historical information to share, as has Gerald Stratford who is also included in this informative chapter.

No book about Oxfordshire's carp fishing history would be complete without the story of Oxford's first forty and what a story it is. Richard 'Paddy' Paradine has never written or published any of his catches before and we have his interview here for you of his historic catch which was kept under the radar for so long.

Nick Stansfield is a brilliant young Oxford carper who doesn't shout about his catches. We have two incredible chapters from him from two of the county's most iconic lakes, The Leisure Park and The Big S! Josh Chatfield has written a fantastic chapter which really gives you an insight into how fishing on The Leisure Park was back in the day when the Leney's were still about and culminates with his capture of The Big Leney at its biggest ever weight, the iconic 'Paddy's Fish'.

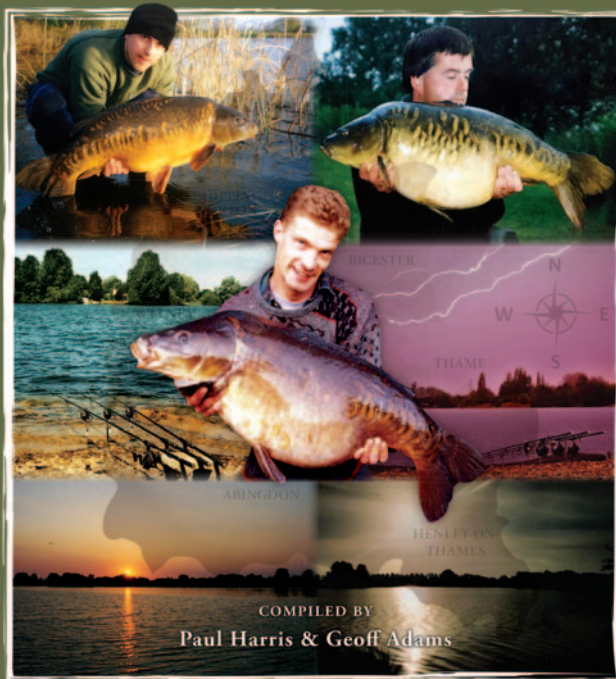
We have brilliant chapters on Newlands from Ginger Robinson and Milton Pools from Stuart Rothwell. Danny Aplin has written about his time on Linch Hill which will just blow you away! His pictures alone are worth purchasing this book.

Nick Franklin has written a lovely chapter on one of Oxfordshire's little known lakes and his account really hits home that carp fishing isn't always about the numbers game. Sometimes it's just you fishing for the unknown! There are superb chapters on Manor Farm from Paul Hathaway and St Johns from Stewart Roper.

If that wasn't enough Paul and Geoff have wrote chapters themselves which cover the stocking history of lakes, how the gravel company ARC played such a big part in the early stockings of Oxford's lakes, the early days of Linch Hill and Linear Fisheries and facts and stories regarding Oxford's other lakes, some very off the radar!

If you like your history, you like carp fishing and love stories of beautiful scaly carp, there is only one book to purchase this year. Here it is...

## The History of Carp Fishing in Oxfordshire



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**A V A I L A B L E N O W**





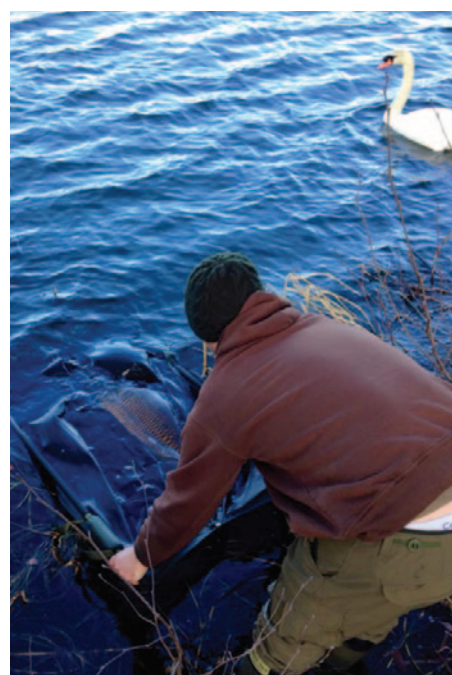
through the depths, and a thud was felt on each rod. A few baits were scattered over the top of the three rods. Before leaving the weekend before Mike and I scattered around two kilos each all over the area with the use of the throwing stick. We were hoping that the extra bait would give the fish more reason to make a mistake.

The wind had once more strengthened, and by 10am once again, the same as the previous week, a northeasterly pushed itself across the lake and straight into the boards at the front of the swim. The wind was absolutely freezing as I stood at the front of the swim. I grabbed the Delkim receiver and headed to Mike's swim, cup in hand of course. We were both excited about the weather and both felt a bite was imminent considering the conditions were so similar to the previous week. It was 11am

when we were both proven right, with my receiver going into melt-down. I ran the short way to the rod and was met with the spool emptying at a rapid rate. I picked up the bent carbon and was instantly met with a firm resistance as the unseen fish hit the surface thirty yards or so to the back of the spot.

After a series of powerful runs, the fish was soon hanging deep down from my position on the wooden jetty. Once again I could make out a common twisting and turning through the waves. I was freezing at this point, and I was shivering due to the freezing cold northeasterly wind blowing into the swim. Once again Mike was by my side clutching the net, after a few short powerful runs a good common drifted over the net cord. Once again it was a decent one. It was a short, clean looking fish with really dark golden scales that in the winter rays looked stunning. It was a winter to remember, that was for sure. I had received a total of five takes since December and landed a total of five

fish, proving the combination of Mouth Trap and size 6 choddy hooks to be the wise choice. All bites also came to the new Mark Dean Cell cork ball pop-ups.



**(Top) A cracking bar of gold.**  
**(Right) Returning the bar of gold into the dark, cold depths.**



I was over the moon with the results. Since October there had been a total of seven fish landed, of which two had come to good friend, Mike, and the other five to me. We had fished well to get that many bites from a water with so little winter form. With spring around the corner the lake started to get busier and the fishing became even more tricky. I tried flitting to the lake next-door and succeeded in capturing a few of the Bottle Lake's residents, but the spark simply wasn't the same on Bottle. After a few more fish throughout the spring I felt it was time to move on, as I felt the rumours of there being a big common in the lake were false.

I finished on Shalford with a total of thirty-four fish out of a total of thirty-eight runs – a testament of the rig choices I had to make and adjust. To this day the biggest fish from the lake is the mirror I caught known as Meg. If that mysterious common turns up, I will be the first one getting a ticket. I loved my time on the lake and have left with many great memories. As I



**One day I may return to Shalford, but for now it's time to move on.**

write this I am currently on a new adventure on a big windswept pit full of mystery. What will this place contains only time will tell, and I know

I'm going to have to work as hard as ever to capture its special inhabitants.

Good luck, and bag a big'un. ■



**My last capture from Shalford – another stunner with a big future.**



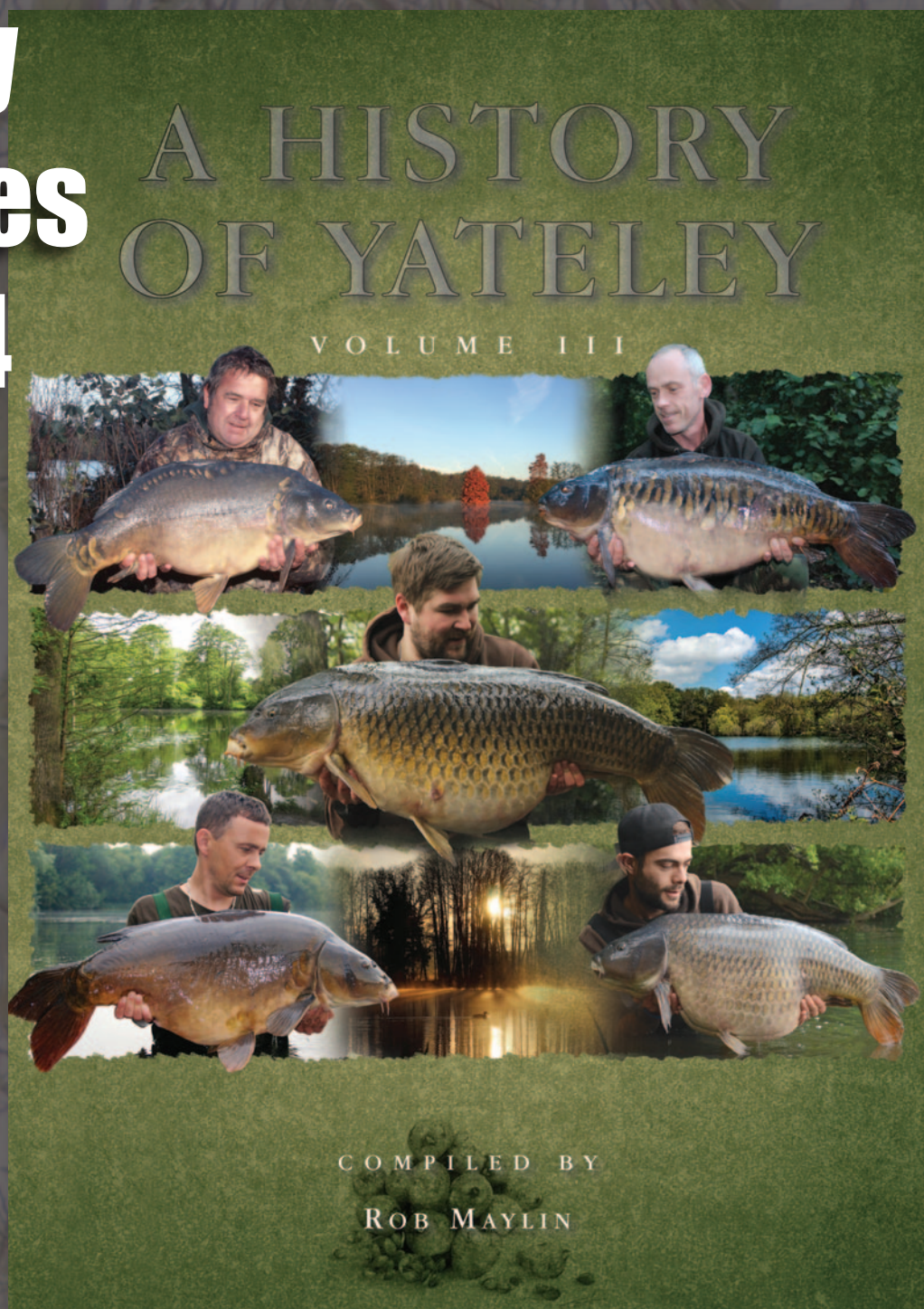
# Yateley Volumes 3 and 4

In the time since the Cemex sell-off, Yateley has had a new lease of life. Although those legendary carp like Basil, Heather and their buddies are now long gone, the new stock has grown and returned Yateley to its former glory. Likewise, its banks may not now be trodden by the likes of Terry Hearn and me, but the anglers that fish Yateley now are just as passionate about the Yateley carp as we were 20 years ago.

Every lake has come on leaps and bounds in this time: The North boasts commons up to 54lb with a handful approaching 50. The Car Park too has numerous good forties. The Split Lake is a real eye-opener with a good head of big fish up to 47lb! You would never have dreamed it. The Pad Lake, South Lake and even the diddy little Horseshoe and Pump House all contain big fish. The Pad has numerous forty-pluses.

Over the other side of the road there is a similar story: multiple forties in the Match, some beasts now in the Copse and The Nursery holding fish to 47lb and maybe bigger, as its anglers keep very secret squirrel about what goes on over there. The Nursery is certainly Yateley's secret jewel in the crown.

Hence the reason for this book... It's been six



years since the first two volumes, and the changes are phenomenal, the fish huge, and only living five minutes from the complex, I felt duty bound to record the history further on these lakes, the UK's true heritage waters. The format remains much the same: the page numbers continue through the volumes. Maybe in another ten years, there will be more history to record, even perhaps a Yateley British record... who knows? Now wouldn't that be something?

I have also decided to include the Yateley lakes on the edge of the old Cemex complex, these being Little Moulsham, Mill Lane, Swan Valley and Sandhurst. Each contain their own



treasures including a couple of fifties!

Because of the sheer size of this project and to do justice to all the lakes there will once again be two volumes.

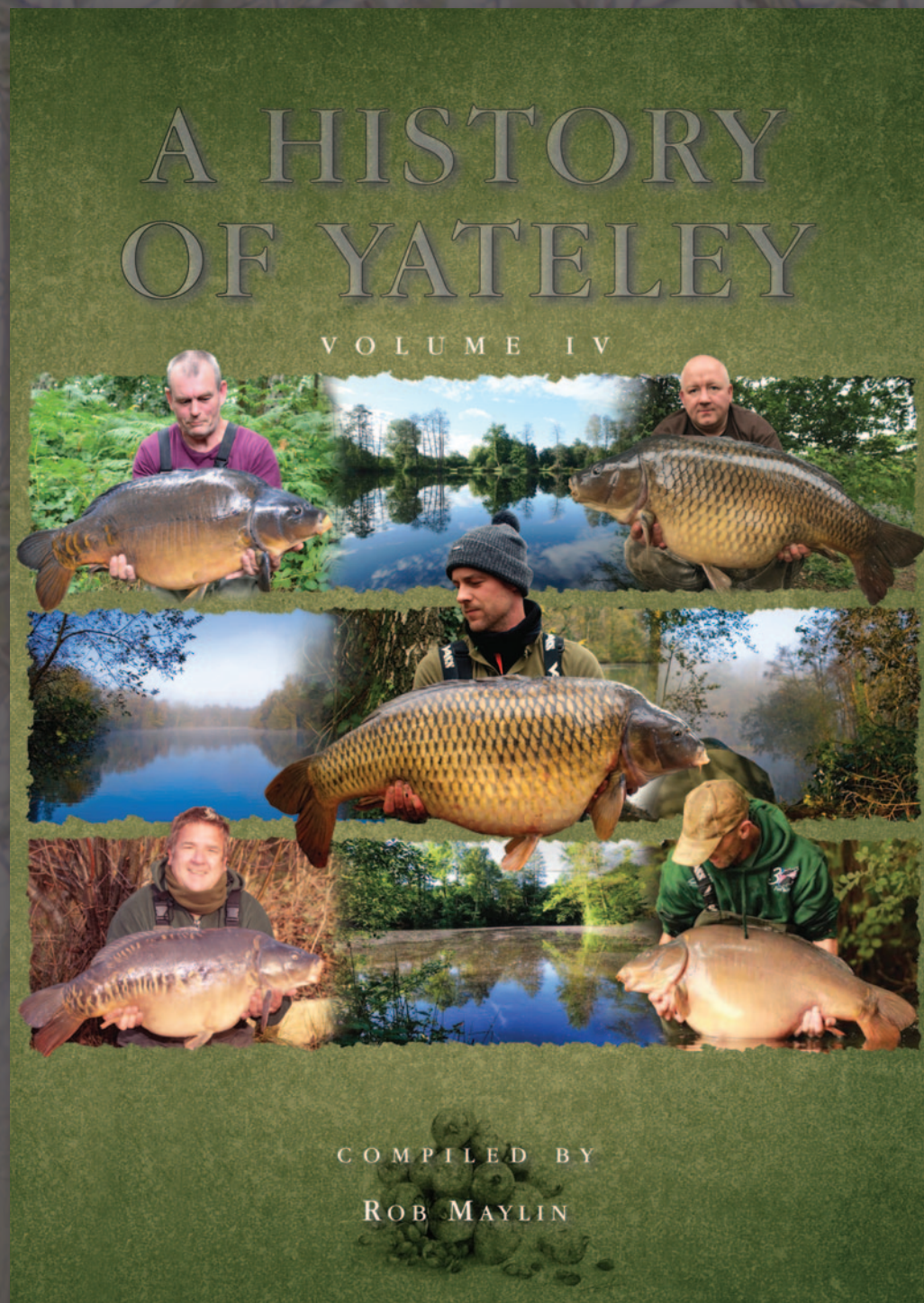
Volume 3 contains chapters on the North Lake, The Split Lake, Horseshoe and Pumphouse. The Pads Lake, Car Park, Moulsham and Mill Lane.

Volume 4 contains the chapters on The South Lake, Match Lake, Copse Lake, Nursery Lake, Sandhurst and Swan Valley.

There are some great introductory pieces from Martin Gardener, owner of Yateley West Fisheries and Ian Gray, Honorary Secretary of Farnham Angling Society, the owners of Yateley East, plus a chapter featuring the famous

Stoney and Friends MacMillan bashes each year. There are stock lists with photos of as many of the new residents as it was possible to get and chapters from the guys who fish there at present – ordinary guys with some great tales to tell of their captures on each of the lakes.

All this is combined with fantastic colour photography throughout, some amazing paintings of each lake and a host of special drawings commissioned for these volumes. These volumes are as much if not more of a work of art as the predecessors. The first two volumes were amazing and received worldwide praise... but dare I say, in my opinion, these two volumes could be even better? A massive thanks to all concerned, and long may Yateley continue! Long live the king of English carp fishing history!



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# The Dinosaur

By Colin O'Gorman Woolfall





**A**fter being shown a picture of the Dinosaur for the first time, I realised there and then that I had a new fishing mission! I could not believe the fish – the shape, colour, the sheer size. It's a prehistoric monster and surely one of the greatest carp I have ever laid my eyes on. "That's it," I said, "I'm going for it! I'm booking and I don't care if I don't catch, just knowing it's in there is enough!" So after four great years on Teillet's and after being ever so lucky I was ready to step it up a gear. I contacted Julian the bailiff, and we spoke a little about the lake, although there was a bit of a language barrier. He told me of amazing dark creatures, uncaught fish, still wild as the lake had been closed for five years up to the season starting April '14. He told me of floating islands of weed, which fish follow around for food, and all sorts of magical stories, and then of course the DINOSAUR!

We spoke of how and when she had been caught and from which areas, and of course how big! "She was 86lbs in June, 96lbs in November, and maybe 100lbs when you arrive in April," he laughed. This was still early 2015, probably February, so I know she likes a good munch-up in June and early November! As an angler, being on the lake that holds your target fish at the time that certain fish has been caught before is giving yourself a really good chance in my opinion. I'm sure carp eat all the time, but a couple of times a year at the right time it's more like a switch, and they will eat aggressively and continually for as long as it takes until they have what they need, shall we say. So although I had a good feeling, and I had June and November booked to go, I couldn't wait that long, so April it was. I booked for two weeks, and to be honest would have been more than happy with one carp, just like most of us probably think when going to a new lake of this size, etc.

I started doing as much homework as possible, and to be honest most info I got said the same thing. It was a really hard lake with hardly any fish, and when you do hook them you can't get them in because of weed – this sounded impossible. But then I thought, on the other hand they're still in there and they still get caught, so it's not impossible at all! We just need the right tools for the job, and we are away! Soon April was upon us, and the week before I arrived there was bad weather with easterlies, frost, sleet and generally cold for the time of year. I rang Julian, and he told me no one had caught fish and no one had had seen fish! I thought, okay, fair enough – things can only get better. I have all my gear set and I am armed to the teeth... I'm on my way!! Anxious, nervous, excited... all those feelings I had when I first started going to Teillet's had come back, and I had butterflies.

I arrived, and my first thoughts were, oh no, what have you done? You





have jumped in at the deep end, and now you're in trouble. But within half an hour I thought I saw a fish splash... hmm maybe... then half an hour later, confirmation – another one in the same place! My mood started changing, as when I can see them showing I feel they are using energy, which in turn equals feeding! So I decided to sleep that night and start fresh the next day.

I awoke, the sun was out, and it was a nice day. I could see them showing beyond me, so I went out and found some spots and started to get rods in the water. There were some amazing features – weed, lumps and ditches, clear areas – it was a real dream for any angler. I found some nice deep areas, as I guessed everyone else would be trying the shallows with weather changing. It took I think 48 hours until my first run, and I was shaking! I landed the fish, a lovely chunky upper-30, which almost

looked Spanish! It had starburst scaling – nice! I was thinking it was a right result. I'd had a fish, which was the main priority, so now let's try and get another! I ended up with 14 on my first trip and also a major lesson learnt on the lake itself.

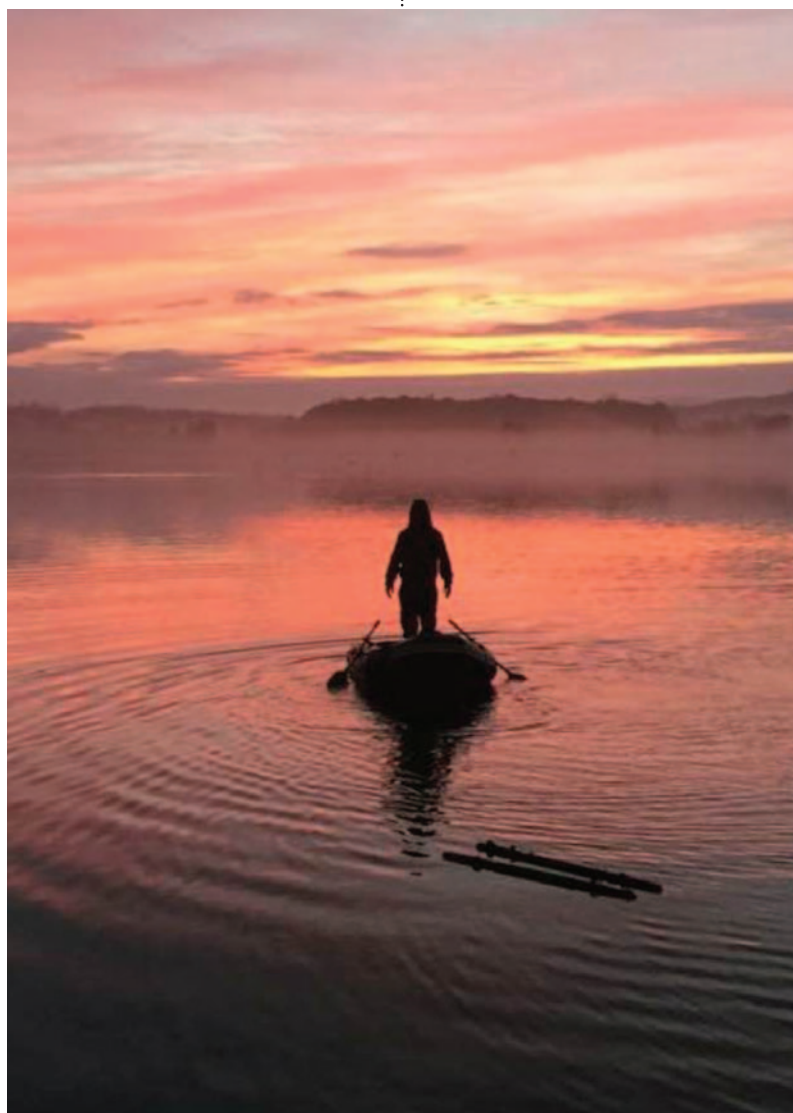
I came back in June with my friend Dylan, and I had another load of fish including a couple of the big fish, which were spawned out from upper 70 and upper 60 to 65 and 59 respectively! The fish my friend Dylan had was actually out the day I arrived in November at 80lbs. It had put on 15lb since June. This fish is known as the second biggest in the lake, and she is a really beautiful fish, jet black... amazing. So anyway, I had been in April, June and July and I have been lucky enough to catch somewhere in the region of 60 fish. Now it was November – big fish time!

I arrived knowing quite well the Dinosaur was caught last on the pre-

vious 7th November. It was the 1st November, and I was here for two weeks – ha ha. I spoke to my friend Jay who would be on swim 1, also for two weeks, and he said to me, "It's going to come out." I said, "I know, sir. I know it is, just who's going to be the lucky angler?" Of course sometimes we have a feeling, but we can't be sure. I set up knowing that a few fish had been caught the previous week, but nothing for the last few days. No problem... that's great. Maybe the big fish were still hanging around after the main shoal had left? In my experience of catching big fish, a large proportion of the time they keep away from the main shoal, especially when leaving an area. The big fish seem to lag behind, maybe not as exited to move as a little one would be?

Anyway, the next morning I hadn't had any, and I hadn't heard any or seen any either. Julian rang and told me the person opposite me had the 80, Dylan's fish from the summer... Yes, I thought, the big fish are in front of us. So that was it then – I was zoned in watching the water like it was a TV for any one show or sign of where the monster might be. But all I could see was bird life. Because the weed was near the surface my braid was over the top of it going out to the spot. Obviously because of this the bird life can hit or pick up the line, which is exactly what happened. A swan wrapped itself up in my line and was tearing off! So that meant a restart on the left hand rod. Now I didn't want this happening again, as I really like the idea of leaving my rods out for days; it just seems to catch the big fish. I armed myself with a 12oz lead and made my way 350 yards out to my spot.

It was a nice day – sunny, no wind and a great opportunity to see the bottom. I arrived by my marker and looked down. It was 11ft deep, and the clear spot in the weed was probably the size of a one-man bivvy. I could see my Red Spicy Fish on the lakebed. I dropped the lead in the weed just there and left the end half of the rig poking out... Sorted, I thought! Monday morning came and still nothing, but no problem... We've been here before; I was just getting started. The day passed, and I watched the water again, hoping to see a sign, but nothing. Then dark-





ness fell, and after some nice food I was ready for bed.

I was lying there, and it was silent. Then the next thing, boom, an absolute monster jumped in my swim! I wasn't sure where; I couldn't make it out, but she wasn't too far. I was hoping now, expecting even, but next morning... nothing again. It's okay, as I'd heard a really big fish out there, and that was enough for me. All my rods were set, and I didn't plan on doing anything that might disturb the swim.

Julian arrived on Tuesday about 5m. We ordered food and had a few beers while banging our heads together, talking as you do about theory and fish behaviour. Suddenly, beep, beep went the left hand rod, and it started to run. I put my light on and took to the boat. Julian offered to row for me. "Sweet," I said. "Let's do it!" So we were on our way... He was rowing steadily, and I was just reeling down and pulling up. There wasn't much said; it seemed like an eternity.

The lake was flat calm, and we

were nearly over it. I could feel it kicking – I was over it! I pulled with a bit of force to get her out of the weed and wow... just wow! She came up on her side. "It's her!" I said to Julian. "Net it!" With one scoop she was in. It was as if she was dazed or something, and we brought her close to the boat! Oh my word, it was definitely her! I couldn't believe it! I hugged Julian and we started laughing. We took the hook out, rolled the net and started bringing her back. For a split second at that moment I thought it was a dream and I was about to wake up in the bivvy, but it wasn't! Julian confirmed I was awake!

It all started rushing through my mind... I had a feeling it would come out this week. All through the stories of hardly any fish, my worries when arriving for the first time, all sorts of things, I had thought about this fish every single day since the first time I saw that picture. My lovely, very understanding girl and amazing children had suffered and put up with a lot, not only now but for years. I

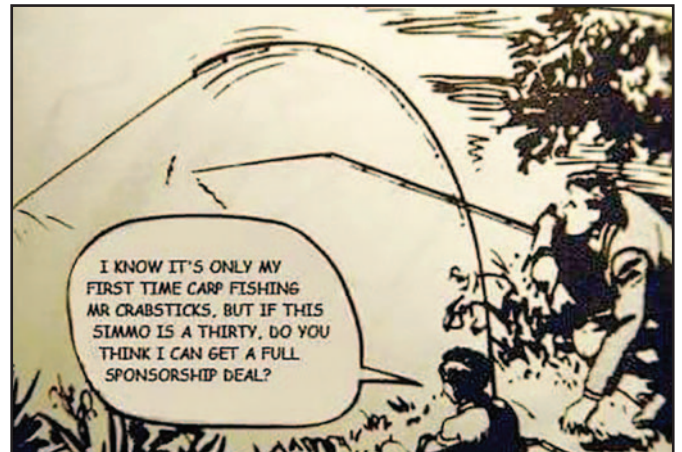
thought of my dad who often comes to my mind when I have big fish, and my grandad who had died a couple of days prior to my actually leaving for France. All this went through my mind before I got back to the bank!

We put her in the sling for a breather and got Jay around to help. I tried to pick her up and basically couldn't get my arm under and around her. "She's too big!" I said. "I can't get her up!" We somehow did a team effort and managed to get some truly epic photographs. We hoisted her up and the scales read 93lb 1oz. She was an amazing creature – nearly seven stone!

We all watched her swim back into the darkness in a tranquil silence. As I sit here a month later and write this, I'm still on a high. I am truly honoured to have been lucky enough to rub shoulders with such an amazing fish. I think for some anglers a capture like this would give maybe a sense of completion, but not me! My head is now completely and utterly on my next adventure – RAINBOW! ■

## Carp Humour

Fair weather carp angler, coming to ruin a lake near you 🤔🐟







Connor Gentry with a 17lb common from the margins.



Kevin Goss with his first Pipe Lake carp.

## Big Carp Promotions



January 2016 Lake Diary - Oak Lakes Fisheries, Burnham Road, Southminster, Essex, CM07BJ

**W**ell, 2016 is here, and the anglers of Oak Lakes Fisheries have really

been putting in the time to find some absolutely beautiful carp during January. With the temperatures dropping... no... plummeting into minus figures at times and the storms blowing a hooley across the UK, conditions have been more than unfavourable for lots of anglers.

Still, the results speak for themselves with many of the Oak Lakes Fisheries beautiful carp finding their way on to the bank for the anglers who did brave the poor conditions this month.

First to catch in January was Gavin Amos, and Mr Dependable himself found the first couple of carp of the year with a great session, catching two carp, with the pick of them being

### OAK LAKES FISHERIES SOUTHMINSTER

a lovely common that was almost black in some areas of its body. This has really helped start the year off with a bang. Well done, Gavin – great angling as always. Next up is new lake record holder Connor Gentry who's having a great run of late on Pipe Lake, and on a short session towards the back end of January he caught two lovely hard-fighting carp, with a mirror of just over 20lb being the best from a productive session – top angling.

Also fishing alongside Connor was our very own team member Kevin Goss who managed just over 24 hours on Pipe Lake. With it only being his second session on the lake, he was greeted by a pristine dark winter fish and extremely hard-fighting as well. It only reached 19lb on the scales but was well worth the effort to open his

Pipe Lake account. All the captures featured this month are from Pipe Lake, but there have still been lots of good quality sessions and captures from all over the fishery. With Oak Lake producing lots of varied size carp from all over the lake, it means the cold weather has not really seen too many disappointed anglers who visited Oak Lakes Fisheries this January.

Catch us next month where we are hoping for more great captures from Oaks, so tight lines for now. For the entire up to date goings on at Oak Lakes Fisheries please visit their website at [www.oaklakesfisheries.co.uk](http://www.oaklakesfisheries.co.uk) or visit them on Facebook or if you would like Big Carp Promotions to showcase your lake or fishery inside Big Carp magazine please get in contact via



Connor Gentry with a lovely winter 20lb mirror.

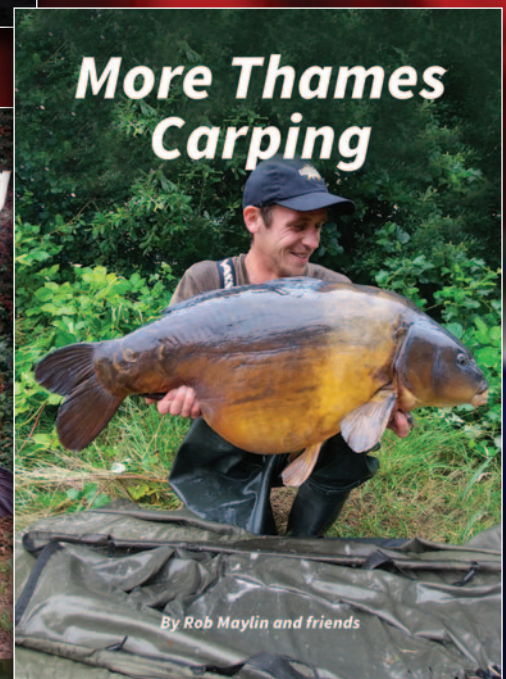
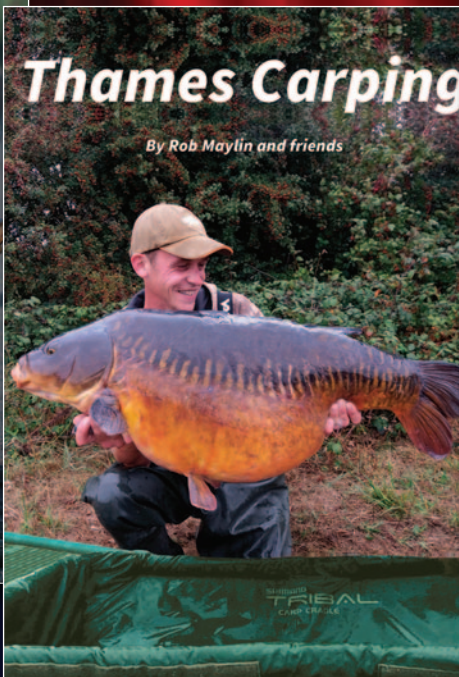
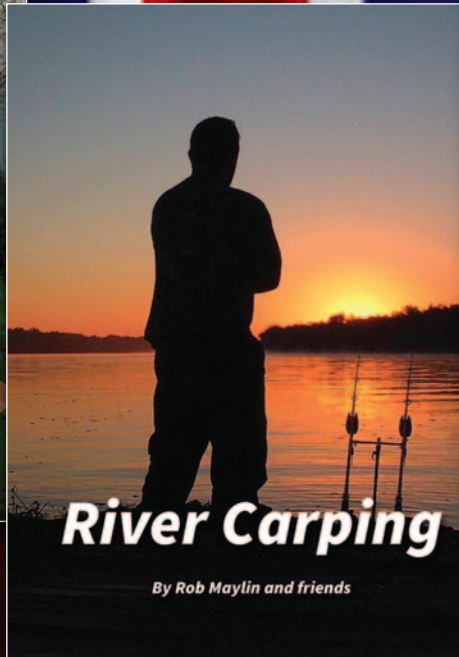
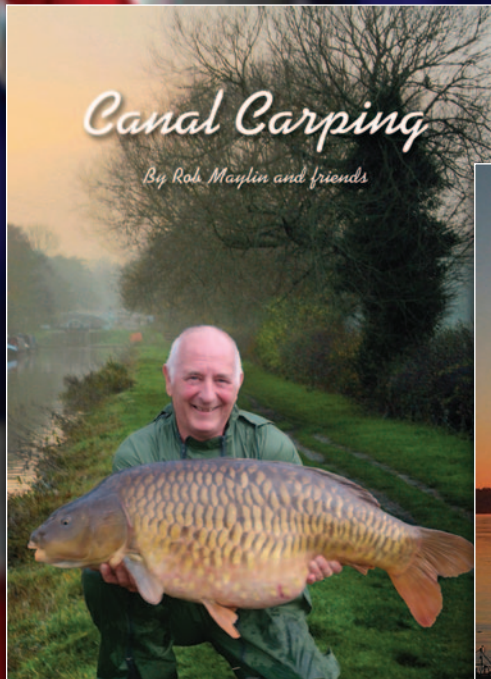


Gavin Amos with an early January dark winter carp.



# THE RIVER AND CANAL SERIES

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# A Storming Session

By Barry Oconnor





**B**en and I have been fishing at Cottington Lakes for about five years now. We'd never seen the place let alone fished it until we entered a match on Lake Pepper all those years ago. We won the match and instantly fell in love with Cottington.

### About Cottington Lakes

Cottington Court Farm, within which Cottington Lakes is situated, was purchased by the Steed family in 1972. At that time the three to four hundred-acre working farm was a mix of arable and permanent pasture. The diversification to a fishery began in the late 1980s, and the site now boasts a total of eight lakes. Pepper and Christine, the fishery's specimen lakes, were the first purpose dug lakes at Cottington. At this time the lakes were stocked with trout for fly fishing. The original section of Lake Pepper converted to specimen carp fishing in 2003. It was initially stocked with approximately ninety carp. The extension to Pepper, or as we call it 'the New Lake', was dug in 2009. A



channel was also dug between the new and old lake creating a water of approximately seven acres in size. It's now estimated that there are around 250 carp in Pepper, with fifteen known to be over 40lbs and a further forty-plus estimated to be over 30lbs. Many of these being upper thirties. There are also loads of twenties swimming round in Pepper. There are

**This way for big carp.  
(Below) An absolutely stunning  
plated 39lb 8oz mirror.**

three islands in Pepper and depths range from a couple of feet to around ten feet in places. Lake Christine which is about three acres in size has approximately one hundred carp in it, the biggest weighing in at 37lbs-plus.







This 40lb 8oz mirror was one of three carp caught on this session.

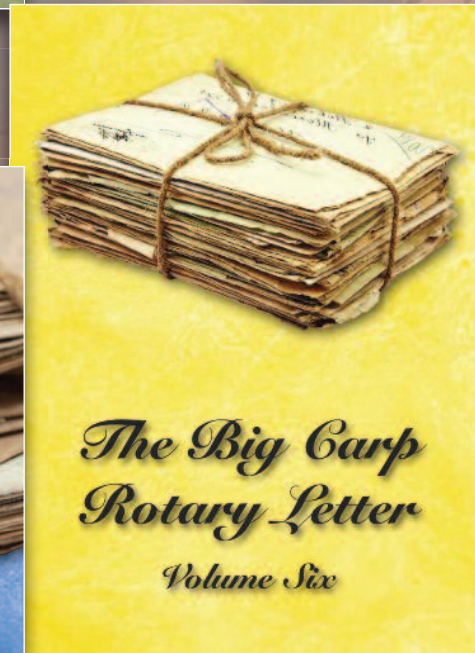
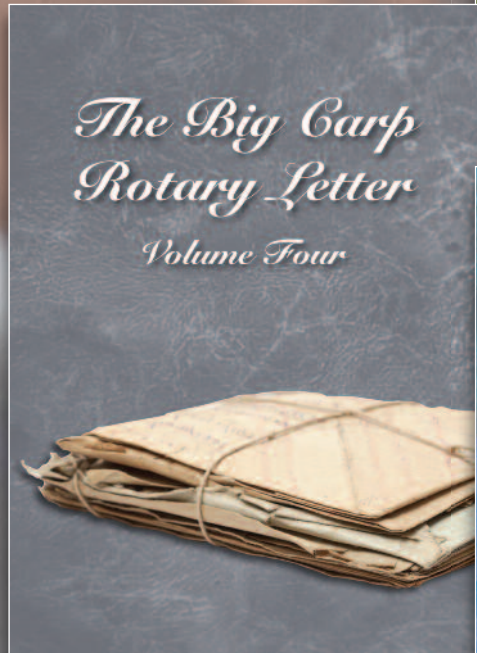
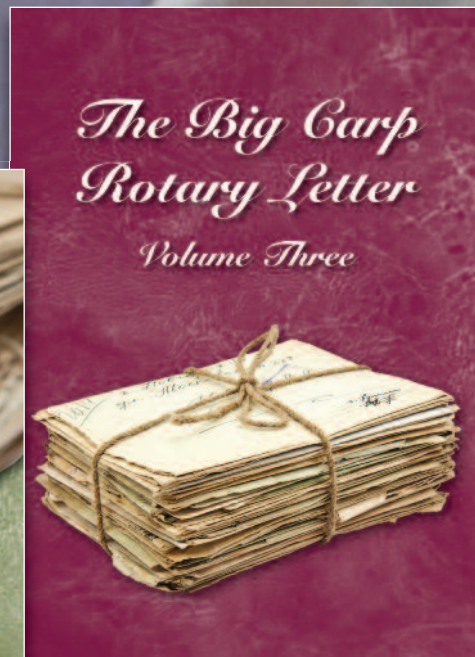
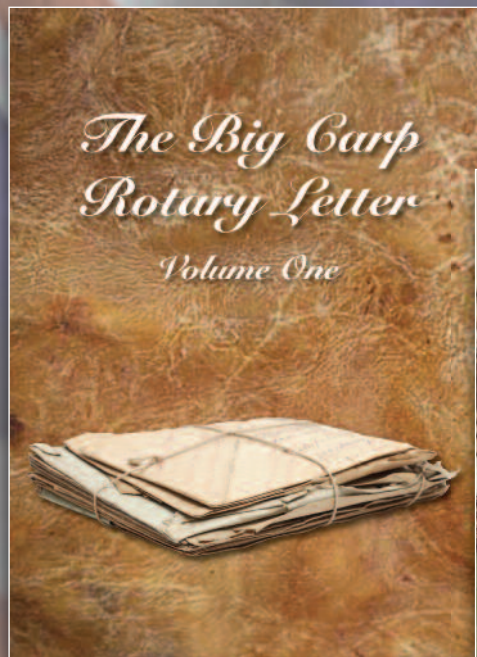


Get your tactics right at Cottington and you can catch stunners like this 41lb 9oz mirror.



# THE BIG CARP ROTARY LETTER SERIES

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Although we have fished Christine a couple of times, it's Pepper that we spend most of our time on. Cottington is an impressive day ticket venue set in forty-five acres of woodland with a phenomenal amount of stunning carp swimming around. It was voted a top ten fishery in Big Carp Magazine. There are sensible rules, and the bailiffs are some of the best we've ever come across. Ben and I organise two carp matches each year on Pepper, which are a great success. There are proper toilets and showers and also a café on site. The fishery is ably run by Gary and Darren Steed who

**(Above) Ben, 24lb 5oz; Barry, 35lb 8oz. (Bottom left) It's not just about the big'uns. This nice 25lb common was most welcome. (Bottom right) Bags were dipped in Fosoil.**

have been managing the fishery for a little under two years. During this time they've made significant improvements to the site although they would be the first to admit that there's still a lot more that they would like to do and are planning on doing.

## A session to remember

On one of our recent visits to Cottington, Ben had a session to remember. It was a visit made on the spur of

the moment; we hadn't made the decision to go until the day before we actually went. You know how it is. Wanting to get out no matter what the conditions are, so off we went. We'd been lucky in the fact that there had been a couple of cancellations on Lake Pepper, so we knew at least a couple of swims would be free. We arrived to find one swim free and another two being vacated by the anglers. Ben went in the one that was free, and I moved my gear behind a







swim where the angler was packing up. Eventually both of us were set up and fishing. The weather forecaster had warned us to expect gale force winds and driving rain by the evening. Storm Imogen was going to wreak her vengeance on us, so we made sure the bivvies were well pegged down with their backs facing the coming wind. Being a highly pressured day ticket water, Lake Pepper carp can often be very temperamental and uncooperative, so a bit of thought is needed in feature finding and bait placement. There are many features in the swims on Pepper, some in plain view and some hidden, but you have to work to find them. Over the years that we've been visiting Lake Pepper we have found features in most of the swims and recorded them. It takes a long time to get to know any lake but once you do, it can be very rewarding. We can't stress enough how feature finding will pay dividends to those that take the time to do it.

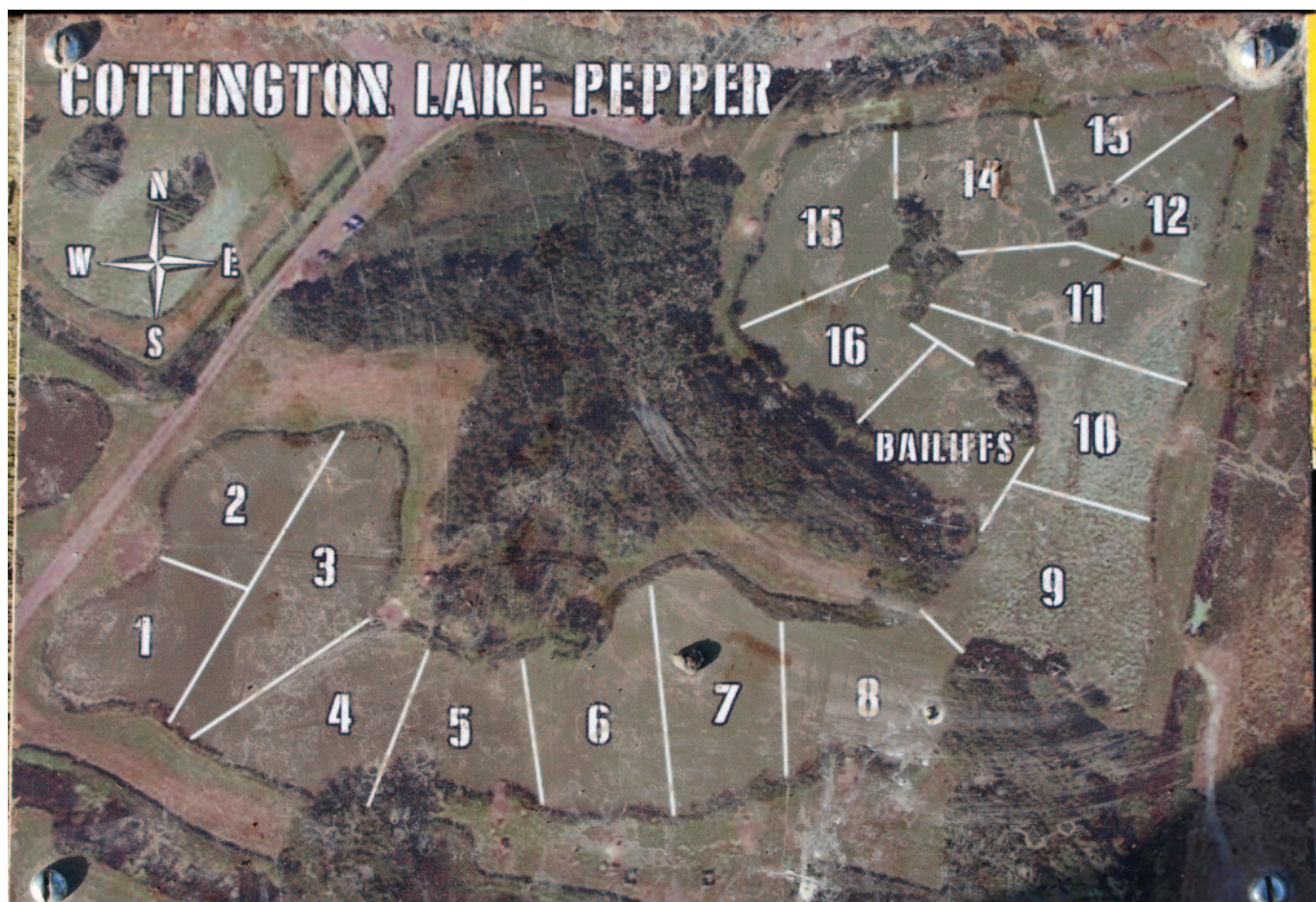
### Simple rigs

There is a two-rod rule on Pepper, so Ben put his left rod on a gravel patch close to an island and the right rod in a gully not far from the bank. This wasn't out of sheer speculation on Ben's part, but because he'd caught from these features before after finding them on previous visits. Ben's setup, as is mine, is not rocket science. We're not ones for having rigs with bits hanging off them; we can't see the point in it. Our rigs catch us carp wherever we go, so we see no reason to change. They may be tweaked slightly on occasions, but that's all. We have absolute confidence in our rigs. They are constructed with Ashima end tackle, which has served us well over the past few years. A typical simple setup for us would be five inches of hooklink tied to a size 6 Ashima Anti-Eject Hook or Heavy Carp Hook with a small piece of shrink tube formed at an angle over the eye of the hook. That's it! This hooklink can be used with a safety clip setup or inline setup. Mainline Cell or New Grange are our preferred baits on Cottington, having caught many stunning carp



(Top) Don't neglect the margins.  
(Centre) Two rods only on Pepper.  
(Bottom) Cell is our preferred bait.





from Pepper to over forty pounds on both of them. We sometimes use pop-ups from the Mainline stable too. A good quality bait will work anywhere. Ben and I have been using Mainline Baits for years now and will never

**(Top)** Lake Pepper swims.  
**(Below)** Short hooklinks.  
**(Right)** Simple rigs.

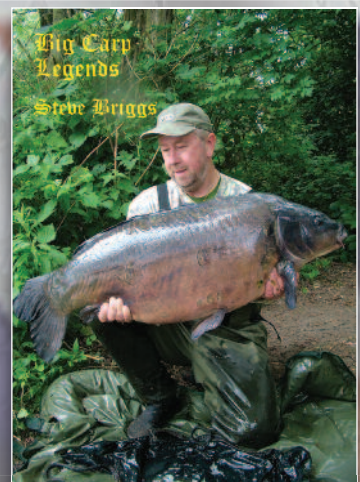
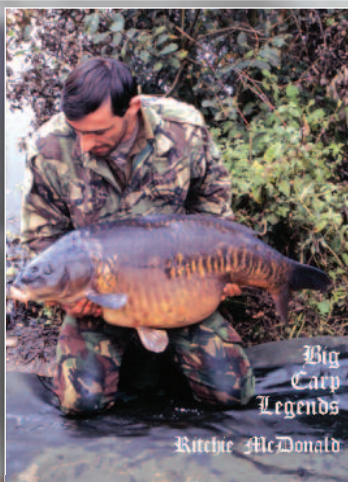
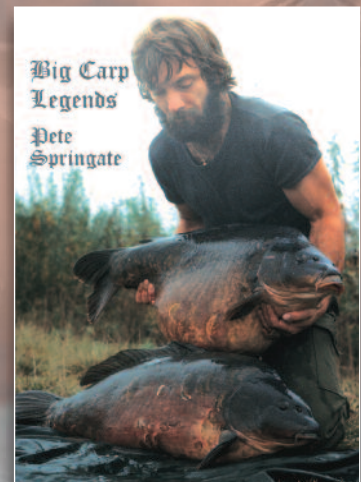
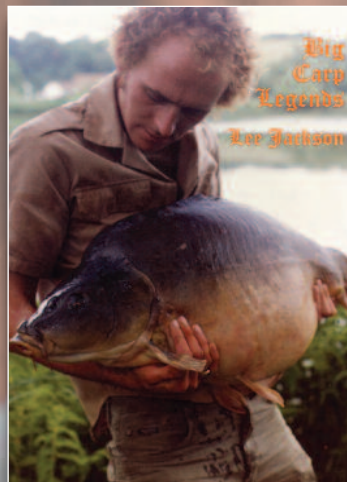
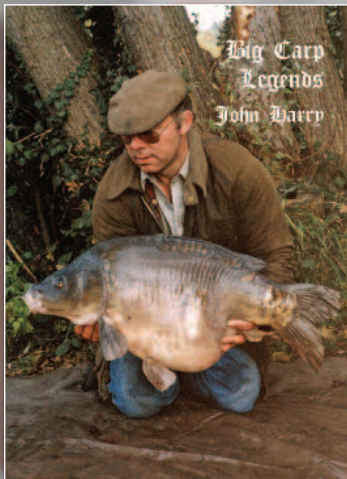
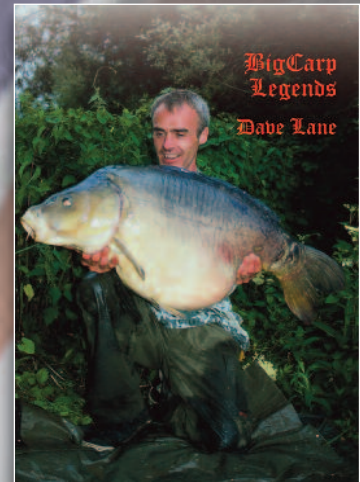
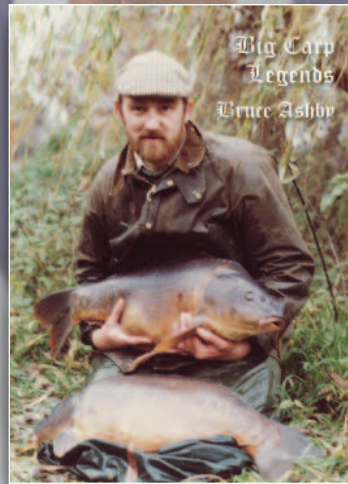
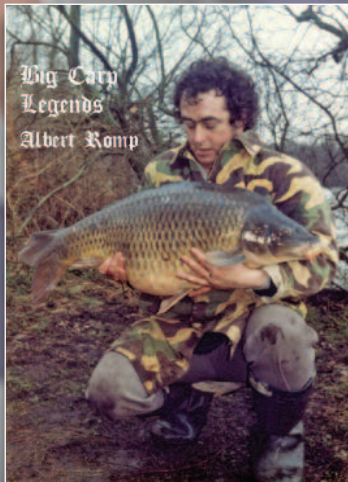
change. As with our rigs we have absolute confidence in our bait choice. The combination of our rigs and Mainline Baits has been paramount in our fishing. After Ben cast out, he catapulted a dozen baits around each hookbait. A small bag of crushed boilies doused in Mainline Fosol was attached to the hook before casting. During the summer we sometimes Spomb out a few parti-





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cles.

## Just short of forty

I had set my traps with one tight up against an island and the other on the side of a bar using the same rigs and bait as Ben. This was the start of our proposed forty-eight hour session at Cottington. Pepper is not a hauling water by any stretch of the imagination, so waiting for a bite is not unusual. Around mid-afternoon we were both in our own bivvies when my phone rang. It was Ben. I answered it with the usual, "What?" or words to that effect but got no reply. I kept saying hello but still no answer. It then dawned on me, had Ben got one? I popped my head out of my bivvy, and sure enough there was Ben playing a fish. As I approached Ben it was obvious he was into a good fish. Ben told me he'd rung to tell me to put the kettle on, and just as he did, his alarm went into meltdown. He threw his phone onto his bedchair leaving me wondering what was happening. The carp was giving a good account of itself as it twisted and turned. It finally relented, and Ben was able to pull it over the net. It looked a good carp, but then they always do when they're lying in the net in the water. After zeroing the scales with the weigh sling the carp was put into the sling and hoisted up. It went 39lb 8oz, half a pound short of forty. What an excellent start to our session.

## The bivvies took a battering

By the evening nothing more had happened except the promised rain and wind that the forecasters had predicted arrived with some force. The bivvies were taking a battering, but they held firm. We leave our mobiles on at night just in case one of us gets a run during darkness hours, and when mine rang I knew what it meant. We don't answer it, but we know it's a signal for assistance. As I approached Ben's swim I could see he was into another fish. It was absolutely pouring with rain. We were both thankful that we'd recently got

(Top) Sometimes we Spomb out a few particles.

(Centre) Put back to fight another day.

(Bottom) Small bags of ground Cell are attached before casting.







The icing on the cake was this 44lb 6oz mirror.



This cracking 35lb 4oz mirror is testament to the quality of carp in Lake Pepper.





our new waterproof clothing and boots from Jack Pyke. There's nothing worse than being wet and cold when playing a fish, but the Jack Pyke gear was coping admirably, keeping us warm and dry in the cold driving wind and rain – nothing short of what you'd expect from a top company. Another battle began, and to be fair at first the carp was winning. As I stood there on net duty, Ben began to take control. The carp was doing its best to get rid of the hook by diving into the

clay gullies. The hook held firm, and Ben was slowly but surely gaining line. In the light of the head torches it looked another good carp. I did the honours with the net, and as the carp kissed the spreader block I lifted the net around it. It weighed in at 40lb 8oz. We put it in a retainer to wait for daylight, which was about an hour away, so we could get some better photos of it.

## The reel was fizzing!

Ben recast his rod and we then both retired to our bivvies. I was just dozing off and one of my alarms sounded, so it was back on with my jacket and out into the rain again. In my rush I forgot to ring Ben, but he'd seen my head torch come on and he

came to help. After a determined fight a common rolled into the waiting net. Not massive but still most welcome in such dire conditions; the dial on the scales stopped dead on 25lbs. By now it was starting to get light, so I got the camera ready for some photos. We were having a coffee in Ben's swim waiting for a bit more light to come through when one of his bite indicators shot up and stayed up. Ben lifted the rod and pulled back slightly. As he did he could feel something pulling the line. All of a sudden the clutch on his reel started fizzing and line was peeling of the spool fast. Controlling the spool with his hand, Ben managed to slow the carp down. Ben had to regain a lot of line before the carp was anywhere near ready for netting. He was keeping up the pressure, carefully pumping it back towards him, and eventually it came into sight. Its back broke the surface and we could see it was big and scaly. It was the type of carp we are used to catching on Pepper, and Ben certainly didn't want to lose it. It would get near the net and then decide to tear off again. After a few heart stopping minutes the carp slowly came to the net. As I scooped it into the net I could see the relief on Ben's face. As we peeled the net away on the unhooking mat there

(Top) A small piece of shrink tube was steamed at an angle.  
(Below left) The Jak Pyke waterproofs came in handy.  
(Below right) Sharp and reliable.





lay a stunner of a carp. It looked way over forty, and we weren't disappointed. The scales went round to 44lb 6oz. I had a little chuckle to myself thinking what a session this is turning out to be for Ben. There were now three carp to be photographed. Two forties and a twenty-five. We still had twenty-four hours to go, but strangely we never had another bite! The weather took a turn for the worse, and during the last night the wind was so bad that we were up all night hanging onto our bivvies. I had a rod and an unhooking mat blown into the lake. Luckily we managed to find them in the morning. We didn't hang around too long, and we were soon on our way.

Reflections of our session... more so Ben's... kept us in dialogue all the way home. Ben had mirrors of 39lb 8oz, 40lb 8oz and 44lb 6oz in that order, and all this from a day ticket water that most anglers pass on their way to France.

If you would like to fish at Cottingham then to avoid disappointment you

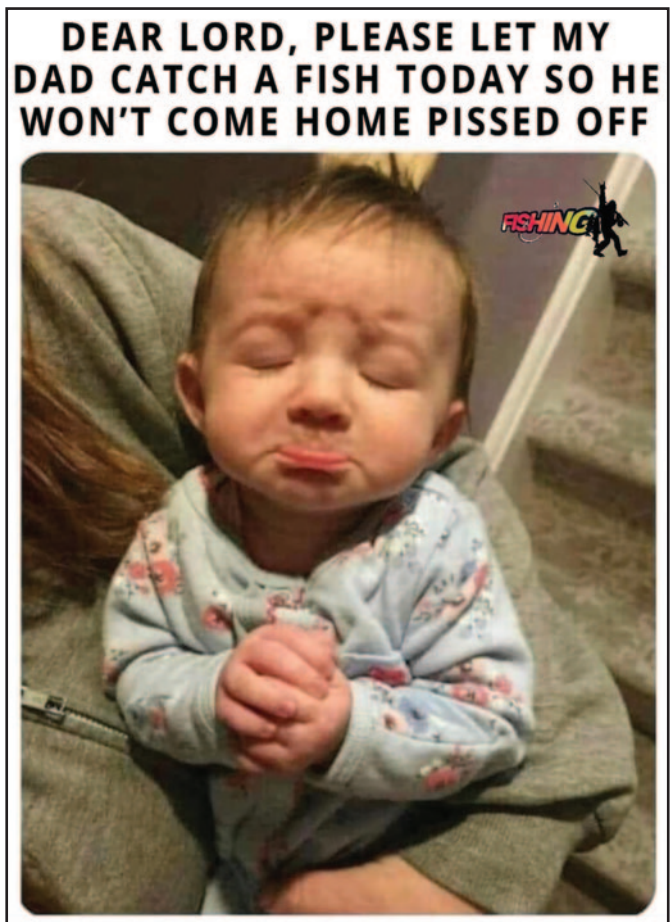


Using a marker is a must.

need to phone the tackle shop and book in. The phone number is 01304 380691. There is also a very good up-to-date website at [www.cottingham-](http://www.cottingham-)

[lakes.co.uk](http://lakes.co.uk) with more info. Or you can follow the fishery through their Facebook page and on Instagram (both CottinghamLakesFishery). ■

## Carp Humour





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# Reuben Heaton

By Andy Race

## Past – 217

One of last original heritage brands in the industry, Reuben Heaton, has its roots firmly in the rich history of British tackle manufacture. As we celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Big Carp magazine in 2016, Reuben Heaton will begin the run-up to yet another milestone. In 2017, the company will complete 160 years of continuous service to the angling trade since Reuben George Heaton inventor and angler started the business manufacturing fishing reels back in 1857.

Over the years, Reuben Heaton has forged a reputation for quality British manufacturing. At the turn of the century, wood, brass and ebonite were the materials to hand. Large volume production in angling was in its infancy, and Reuben Heaton was at the forefront of tackle development with many patents and revolutionary designs to his name. Heaton's experimented with new production methods and materials and was one of the first companies to manufacture reels

Reuben Heaton reels, new and old.



in aluminium in the late 1890s. At its height, reel manufacture was in excess of 30,000 units a year at the turn of the century. Centre pin style reels made up the bulk of production.

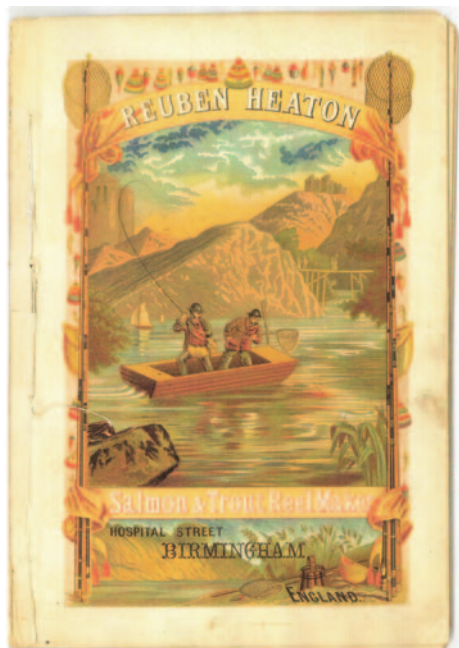
Production included large big game reels up to 10 inches in diameter with wooden star backs, fine lightweight ebonite and aluminium centre pins and brass multiplying winches and scores of fly reels in different metals and alloys. Heaton's exported both reels and tackle all round the world from the late 1860s onwards. Large volumes of big game reels found their way to South Africa, America and Australia; no corner of the British Empire was too far.

In more recent times, Heaton's have become synonymous with the manufacture of high quality angling scales and weighing accessories. Scale manufacture at the company reaches back to the mid 1800s in the form of brass tubular balances. Dial scales however are a more recent development with the first aluminium match scales being manufactured in 1928. Since that time the company has continued to develop its scales production in both analogue and more recently digital formats. Manufacture now centres on advanced thermoplastics, laser cut components and precision engineering. Development of products for weighing in

angling and other commercial markets has been a continuous process from those first match scales built in the late 1920s to the latest limited production Specimen Hunter Black Edition launched in December 2015.

The 2016 season will see yet more firsts for Reuben Heaton. In October 2015 the company unveiled its biggest trade catalogue to date at the Tackle & Guns trade event held at the Stoneleigh showground in Warwickshire. Reuben Heaton brands now span across all angling disciplines not just specimen angling, covering both freshwater and saltwater environments. The new 2016 catalogue marked the culmination of a two-year plan to redevelop the company's route to market and offer British manufactured goods and components worldwide. During that same period the company increased its product ranges developing new products both within the weighing and fishing tackle sectors.

Just as many the scales are hand calibrated, so many of the fishing tackle products manufactured by Heaton's in the UK are also hand finished. This traditional hands-on approach was borne out of a passion for angling that first started the company some 159 years ago, and it still remains at the heart of the company today.



1884 Catalogue Front Cover





**Specimen Hunter Classic and Black Edition.**

More products than ever before are now manufactured alongside the traditional dial scales at the Hinckley factory. Specialist custom build stainless steel products are produced alongside the traditional lures, baits and accessories, which now include hand finished jerk baits in a range of sizes and the latest miniature baits suitable for modern LRF style methods. A wide range of traditional game lures including Buck tail and Bullet style flying C variants, Devon minnows and spoons are also manufactured at the Warwickshire factory.

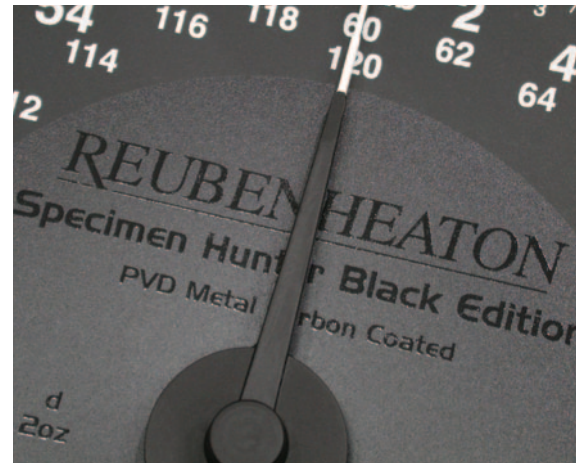
## Total Weighing Solutions

In addition to the many new products launched at Tackle & Guns, the company unveiled its new Total Weighing Solutions (TWS) project in October of 2015. TWS has been set up

to encompass the many ongoing development projects being undertaken by the company. The objective of TWS is to provide a comprehensive development platform for a range of purpose built weighing and measuring systems that offer solutions to modern day recording of fish data.

"Every year we see new developments within the various disciplines in angling that require specialist weighing and measuring products. In some cases the products required are similar too but not the same as the traditional products, and for others it's a totally new product. We are working on products for both leisure and match anglers, for use in saltwater and freshwater.

"Accurate recording of data is easy when working with inanimate objects; they sit still and allow you to weigh them; there's no movement, no



water and not much in the way of external factors to affect results. With angling it's much more of a challenge, and we're setting out to improve the process with weighing accessories specifically designed to minimise the external factors that can cause error." Reuben Heaton Managing Director – Andrew Race.

## Total Weighing Solutions – The Concept

Modern angling requirements for recording captures have now gone beyond simple weigh slings. Conservation, catch and release and data recording are now the core elements that need to be engineered into the products used in this process. The Total Weighing Solutions (TWS) project focuses on developing not only future scale models, but also a complementary range of integrated weighing systems and accessories tailor-made for the weighing, measuring and recording process during fish capture. TWS will work with anglers and consultants from both the environmental and angling arenas to develop future-proof weighing products to cope with the external factors affecting the capture process.

## Total Weighing Solutions – Worldwide

The TWS project will work with organisations and events worldwide to develop safe handling processes that can be adopted as standard procedures. Reuben Heaton scales are instrumental in the weighing in process for many events worldwide, and live coverage of events means that pressure for efficient and safe weighing processes is greater than ever.



**Manufacturing, components, scales on shelves etc**



## Competition

Reuben Heaton products are now used in many major angling events worldwide. As a brand, Reuben Heaton is recognised by the I.G.F.A as a recognised product for world record attempts and by the world governing body for angling internationals F.I.P.S as their preferred scales partner. Reuben Heaton scales are used in British and other European championships and many major angling events including the following:

- World Carp Classic
- World Predator Classic
- World Junior Carp Classic
- British Carp Angling Championships
- British Young Carp Angling Championships
- British Carp Cup
- Angling Trust (UK National Championships)

Reuben Heaton has worked with many top class events over the years to develop weighing logistics for large venues. One such example is the World Carp Classic (WCC) which has now been running for 19 years. From that first event in 1998, the WCC event has continued to expand and grown to be the premiere carp angling event in the world. During that time Reuben Heaton has supported every event since the WCC's inception, developing weighing logistics for increasingly larger and larger venues.

The World Carp Classic has also evolved to include qualifying events in many countries and more recently a World Carp Classic Junior event, on venues that provide new challenges



**World Carp Classic.**

for recording weights. It is important for us, a world leader in scale manufacturing, to be associated with World Class events, which provide challenges for and the development of weigh scales and weighing products. Since 1998 Reuben Heaton has produced the golden Scales for the WCC champions, a prize that can't be bought.

## Specialist Manufacture and Projects

One little known fact about Reuben Heaton is the development work and projects undertaken for other brands and organisations. Over the years, the company has developed and manufactured products for many applications. During the war, Heaton's manufactured ammunition, gun cleaning equipment and specialist blackout headlamps for army vehicles. More latterly, projects have included com-

ponents for expensive Swiss watches, weighing systems for European government programmes and even a set of bespoke scales for HRH Queen Elizabeth.

## Eagle Claw

More recently Reuben Heaton has begun to develop products for and in conjunction with other brands. The most recent of these cooperative projects has been with US based company Wright & McGill better known for its Eagle Claw hooks brand. In addition to being UK distributors for Wright & McGill brands Eagle Claw, Lazer Sharp and Trokar, Reuben Heaton is actively involved in the development of new products aimed specifically at the UK and wider European markets. The Trokar Magnum



**Total Weighing Solutions.**



**Bespoke Scale for HRH Queen Elizabeth.**



Carp hook programme is the first development to come out of this collaboration, the prototypes for which were unveiled for the first time at the 2015 Tackle and Guns event. Initially available in four patterns: long shank, curve, wide gape and chod, the Magnum series offers barbed and barbless options with Teflon coat, sealed eyes and Trokar's patented Surgically Sharpened Technology (SST) point design.

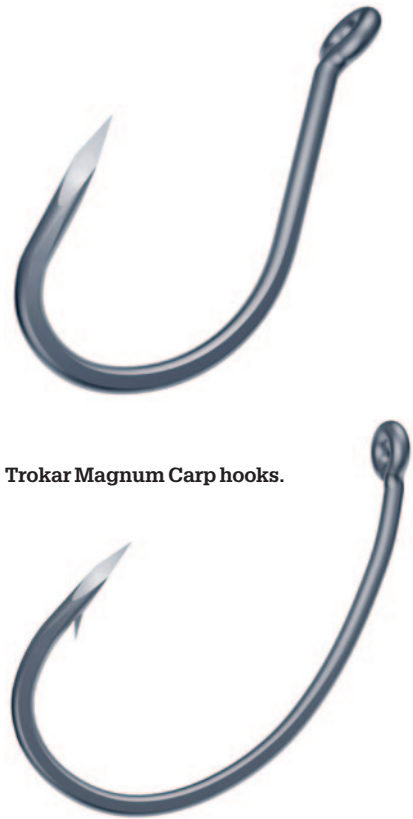
The Wright & McGill Company formed by Drew McGill and Stan Wright shares many traits with Reuben Heaton, not least its long history of US manufacture. With the Eagle Claw brand celebrating its 90th anniversary back in 2015, there is almost 250 years of manufacturing excellence between the two companies. Development and expansion of the Eagle Claw brands is set to continue over the coming years with the introduction of new hook patterns, terminal accessories and larger ticket items in specialist areas such as specimen, predator, LRF and other disci-

plines across freshwater and saltwater.

### Reuben Heaton – The Future

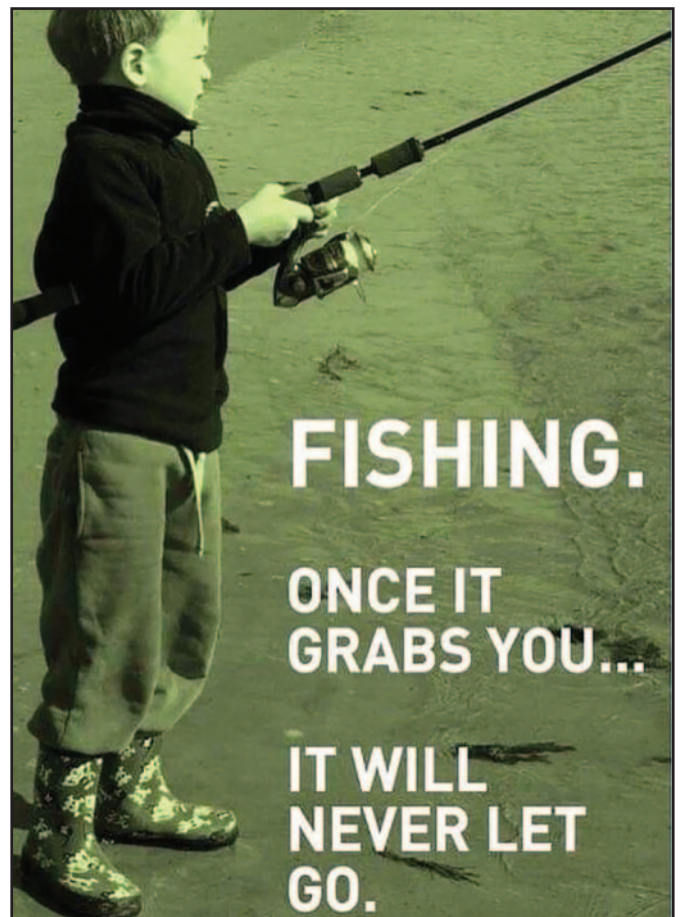
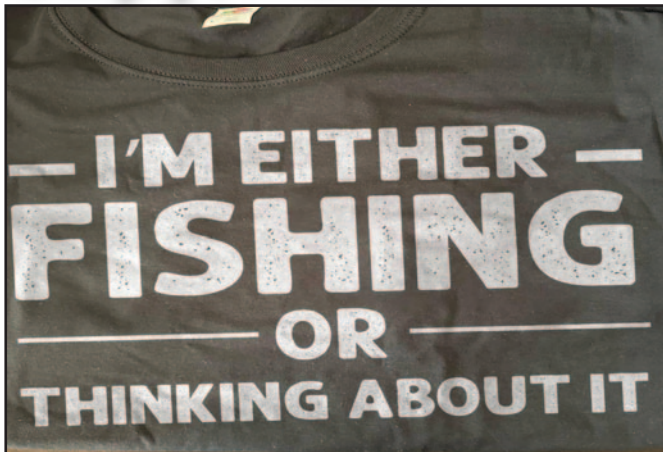
Future plans for Reuben Heaton will see continued product development under the Total Weighing Solutions project, with products due for release in mid to late 2016 and early 2017. Continued expansion of the fishing tackle manufacture will see an increase in the number of UK manufactured components being used in the products made at the UK factory.

The emphasis on UK manufacture and development at Reuben Heaton has always been strong and the extent to which UK components are used in manufacture has increased steadily in recent years. This trend is set to continue into the future as the vast majority of core products currently under development are destined for UK manufacture with some major developments planned for launch during the 160th anniversary year in 2017. ■

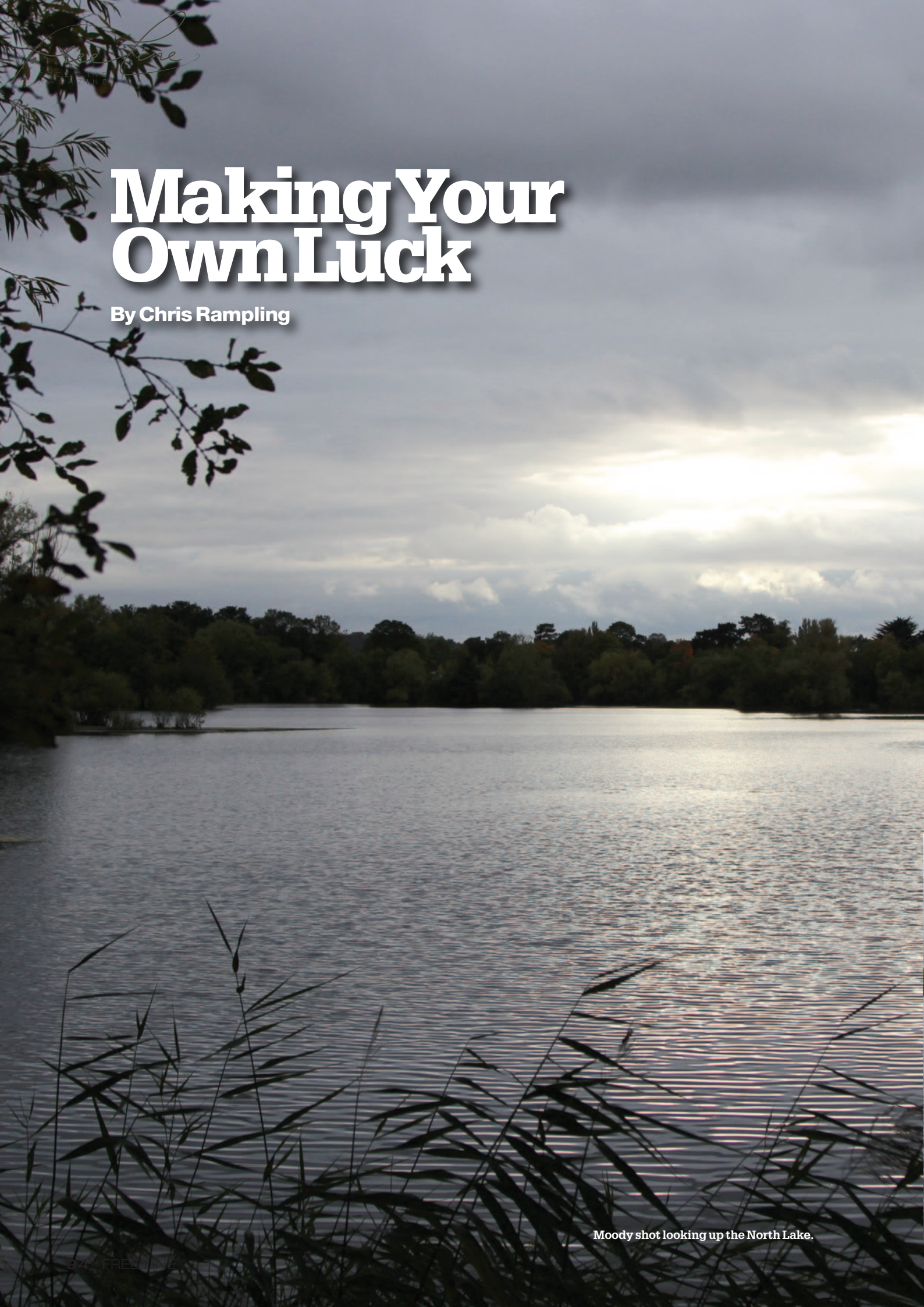


Trokar Magnum Carp hooks.

## Carp Humour







# Making Your Own Luck

By Chris Rampling

Moody shot looking up the North Lake.



**L**ike most people my fishing is limited due to work commitments. Personally I have to juggle both part ownership of Deception Angling, and another, more seasonal job working for the RNLI. Normally I manage to get in an overnighter weekly, or even fortnightly. But so far the season had by no means been a bad one for me, with my opening January session resulting in 41lb 2oz and 37lb 3oz mirrors from a local syndicate. I then moved on from that particular water, and fished a few different day ticket venues. This seemed to fit in better with my schedule, and allowed me to fish a variety of waters dependent on conditions. Those of you that live in, or know the south west will know that we're not exactly spoilt for choice on the big fish front, so my options were still pretty limited locally.

During the summer my carp fishing often gets put on the back burner, and I find myself filling the occasional days off with sea fishing adventures. When I do get to go carp fishing I usually adopt a very mobile approach and try to make the most of any scenario I'm confronted with, which leads me on nicely to my most recent trip at the beginning of October. Each year I manage to find a few days for myself

as other commitments begin to ease up. This year was no different in that respect.

The night before leaving for my planned trip I had a couple of waters in mind, but one of the beautiful things about the internet and social media is that you can often find out how busy certain lakes are, or speak with friends who are fishing waters that I plan to fish. On this occasion I was informed that my first choice of water was all but full of anglers. The previous week's weather had consisted of a high-pressure system

accompanied by easterly winds. This had now given way to a very appealing low-pressure system and a southerly wind of good strength, which was due to remain for the next few days ahead.

I set the alarm in order to leave early, but I still didn't know where I was going to end up fishing. Constant scenarios and thoughts ran through my head as I was driving up the M5, which then turned to the M4, and mild panic began to set in. I was already forewarned that my first choice, Linch Hill's Christchurch Lake, was extremely busy, but I dearly wanted to catch one of those big scalies for the album. I'd also previously considered Wraysbury's North Lake. My initial decision was made only minutes before the Swindon turn off. I was going to go to Linch to have a look around, and consider my options from there. I arrived and sat with a friend, Darren (thanks for the tea, mate!), talking about numerous carpy topics, which never fails to fill me with excitement, and then my choice was made. Somebody I knew was heading to Wraysbury, which was my next choice, so I was able to get the lowdown on how busy it was. After a brief conversation on the phone, I gave my best wishes to Dar-



**(Top)** One of the many heavy downpours and fishing tight lines for liners.

**(Left)** View looking out from Swim 3.





ren and headed off down the M4, Slough bound, in search of my first Wreaybury carp.

I knew little about the current stock, apart from the fact that the original head of fish had been joined by a large head of stocked fish, and that the main channel between the North and South Lakes had been filled, creating two separate lakes. Another hour or so further on from Linch Hill, and I arrived at RK leisure's shop to collect my ticket. The water itself is only a minute or two away

from the shop, and they offer a buggy service to take your gear to your chosen swim once you've had a good look around, which is great if you're tired from a long drive, or if you tend to take the kitchen sink with you!

Walking around the lake I felt a mixture of excitement and anticipation knowing that I was treading the banks on which so many epic tales had been played out in years gone by; the iconic venue brimmed with rich carp fishing history. The forecast looked promising, so I hatched a plan. If I did-

n't see anything, then I'd put myself on the end of the wind, as that would give me as good a chance as any of being on fish. I managed to get around the majority of the lake before my mind was made up. I was going to set up in Swim 7, which gave me the access to the whole of an inviting bay to my right, into which the wind was pushing nicely. This was also convenient, as a friend of mine, Steve, was already set up in the infamous Springgate's Point, only yards away. I headed back to the car park and chose to barrow my gear to the swim, as the forecasted rain had now arrived, and I was more than looking forward to getting a few traps set. Also, having my barrow with me meant I could stay mobile. If I did decide to move swims whatever time of day or night, I could do so. I would only end up kicking myself if someone else moved into a swim I was considering and had it off! You make your own luck in carp fishing.

Before long, three spots were found. One was only several yards out on a smallish shallow spot, this was armed with nothing more than a PVA bag on a line aligner rig. One was at 84 yards, and 12 Spombs of hemp, corn and Urban Bait's Spicy Fish 'warmed' that spot up. This spot was fished with a multi-rigged spicy fish fluoro pop-up, and the last rod went tight to an island at 120 yards with just a single Leon Bartropp Xtra-special pop-up fished on a chod rig. I didn't feel the need to lead around too much on that spot, as I had a good drop first cast. All three rods were fished on a tight line throughout the night in the hope that I might receive some liners, helping to locate them. Even if I wasn't lucky enough to get a take, I hoped that by morning I'd know if I was on fish.

Once the traps were set, I sat there sipping coffee, taking in the moment, knowing that my first Wreaybury carp could be just around the corner. Daylight turned to darkness, and I retreated to the bed. Before long I was awakened by the early morning aircraft going overhead at around 5am. Clearly something wasn't right about the swim. The fish mustn't have been

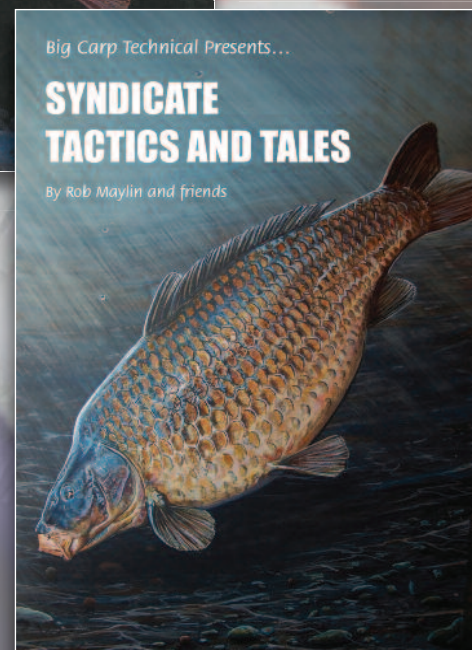
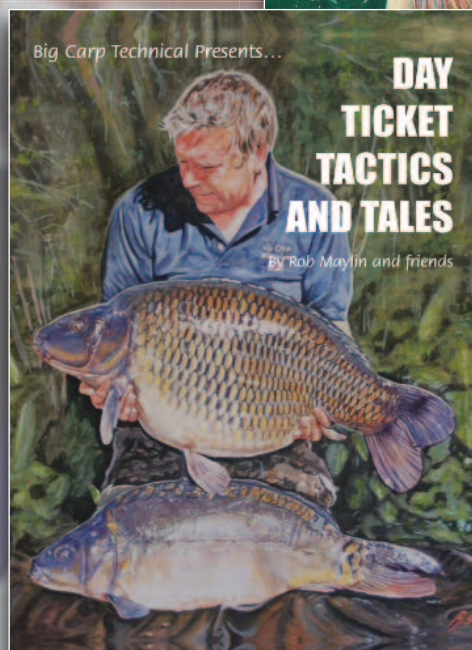
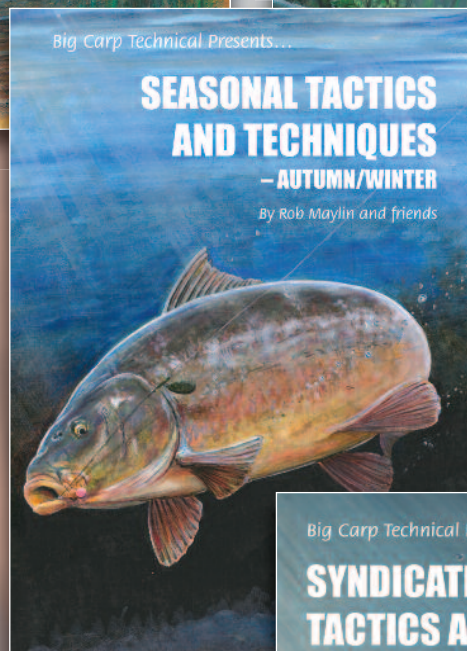
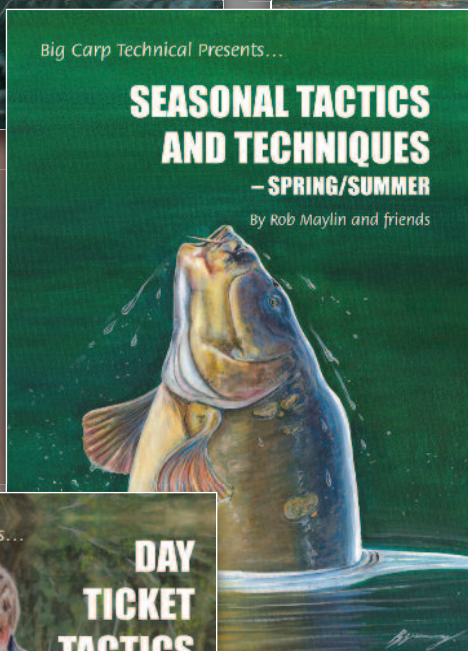
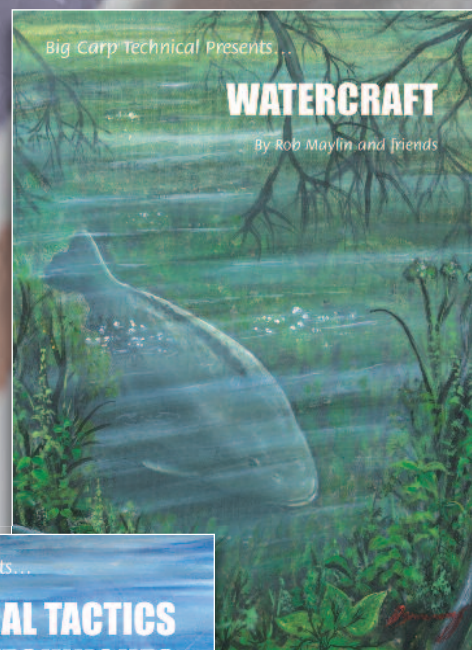
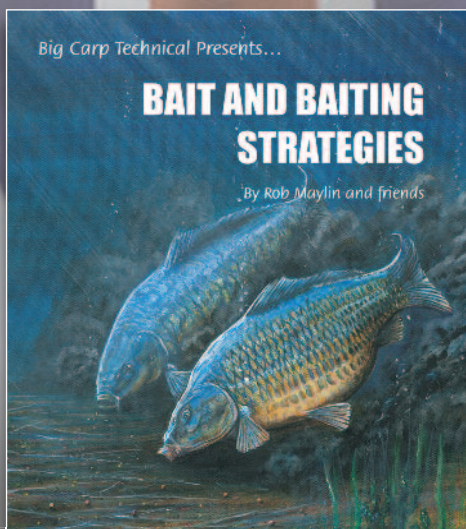
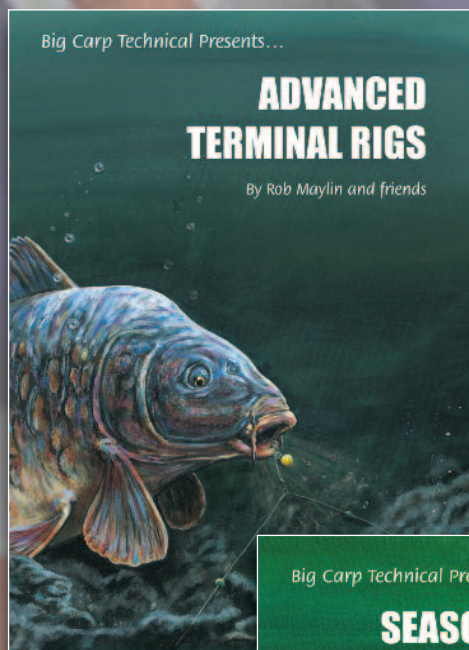


**(Top) 14lb-plus stockie.**  
**(Left) Gaining a high point in trees help to spot fish including this 40-plus common.**



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there, or surely I would have had a liner or seen a fish? I sat just behind the brolly looking out on each side of the point, hoping to see something. Pretty soon I had spotted several fish launching themselves clear of the water in between the iconic Rocky Barge and Swim 18. They were in the middle of a large expanse of open water. Both these swims were occupied. I now had a decision to make, did I move as close as I could to them, which would have been to a swim known as The Runway (a double swim), or did I move into the swim that controlled the island that they were showing closest to in the hope that I'd perhaps intercept them on their patrols to and from where they were clearly holding up?

I ended up choosing Swim 3, which gave me access to the island. I hoped that some of the originals might swim past on old routine patrols. I've found in the past that, with a stocking of smaller, younger fish, not all of the old originals seem to hang around with the bulk of them, and quite often when fish spotting I've seen the bigger ones sat away from the rest, preferring to be loners. Time was pushing on, and heavy rain was soaking me as I tried to find some spots to fish too. A 3oz lead and my spod rod and reel loaded with braid was my tool of choice, minimising the need for a separate marker rod and saving weight. I settled for what spots I could find, which allowed me to fish on fairly clean ground. The first went to a closer in spot, which had a layer of silkweed covering the bottom. A chod was sent out to that one. The other two went to a baited patch near the island, again 'warmed up' with 12 Spombs of hemp, corn and Spicy Fish boilies.

That night didn't go to plan either, and I was sat with a coffee in the morning, scratching my head. Again I watched smaller stockies showing in the same area they had done before. The rods came in mid-morning, and I went for a wander, hoping to spot some fish. I found several fish in the out-of-bounds area, including one good-sized common, probably a mid-40. But with no real numbers of fish being evident down that end of the lake, I decided to stay where I was, and the majority of the day was spent amongst some thin branches at the top of the trees near Swim 3, hoping



**Deception Angling SPC hooks, ring swivels and Leon's pop-ups helped to create my chod rig.**

to spot some fish and figure out where I should place my traps, as the previous night's efforts hadn't paid off.

Eventually my carp eyes adjusted, and I saw a couple of big solitary fish travelling amongst the weedbeds. I stayed up in that tree for a couple of hours with my Polaroids on, watching and learning as much as I could about the numerous areas they visited. This was made all the easier with the gin-clear waters that Wraysbury North Lake has to offer. I eventually came up with a rough plan of where I was going to place my rods. It was just as well, because my feet had had enough of standing on the limbs of that tree! So I climbed down and looked at setting the traps.

One rod went 30 yards to a small silty channel with a very light covering of silkweed. A couple of good-sized fish had passed through this channel. Again I opted for the chod on this rod, using a Deception Angling SPC size 8 hook and our brown putty to weigh it down. The hookbait was again one of Leon's Xtra-special pop-ups, and this was peppered with a loose scattering of

the Spicy Fish to try and draw the fish from the upper and middle layers down to the bottom. One went 20 yards short of the island, again laced with a few Spombs of bait, all as accurate as possible. This rod was armed with a small PVA bag of Hinder's Little Gemz pellet and with a snowman presentation incorporating a Deception longshank in size 6 with a line aligner.

The last rod was cast long to the edge of an overhang on the island at around 125-130 yards with a chod tied up the same as before. The nice thing about the chod was the fact that I wasn't absolutely sure of the bottom I was fishing over, so I knew it gave me my best chance of perfect presentation. I did still get a good drop though, so was confident that this was fishing very well. This time I wasn't fishing for liners, as I knew fish were in the area, so I slackened off slightly, careful not to slacken off too much due to the large weedbeds present in the swim.

The previous night's events were repeated, and I was sent to sleep by the sound of planes approaching and leaving the ever-busy Heathrow, but



the following morning was different. I was awoken just before first light by a single beep on the left-hander (the rod at 30 yards). I sat bolt upright, and slowly the bobbin lifted before stopping half way.

Classic bream take, I thought. I lifted into a weighty resistance, and it became clear that the fish had found a weedbed. Some gentle nods of the rod tip then followed, as the fish shook its head trying to get free of the weed. It felt carpy to me. Eventually the fish came free of the weed and gave me a good scrap

under the rod tip. My head torch was back under the brolly, and everything was done in the glow of street-lights. I've often found this to be an advantage, with no possibility of spooking the fish with the beam of light. There were a couple of edgy moments when netting the fish, but

eventually the cord went under it, and the lot was lifted, securing whatever I had caught. Quickly, I grabbed my hoodie and head torch from the brolly.

I prepared the sling and carp care bits, and returned to check out my prize. To my shock, staring back at me was a long, chunky, scaly Wraysbury original! I couldn't believe it! I gently lifted her into the sling and hoisted her up on the scales. They settled on 39lb 7oz. What an unbelievable fish to catch on my first trip, an absolute stunning mirror!

By this point it was starting to get light, so she was carefully retained for a short time until I could get some assistance for some photos. The next hour or so couldn't have gone quickly enough, as I was smashing back coffee and buzzing my nut ready to photograph the beast! RK leisure's Rupert Whiteman was on hand to do the

photos, along with Steve, and what a great job they did too. Sincere thanks for coming over so early on a rather chilly morning to do those, Rupert. After getting the shots done, she was returned to the crystal clear waters of Wraysbury North.

To be perfectly honest I didn't care if I caught anything else, as the buzz of catching such a stunning old scaly carp was more than enough. But I ended up taking another more than welcome bite from one of the new smaller residents from the same spot as the big'un and again on the chod, armed with the Xtra-special pop-up, and Deception SPC 6 and putty.

What an absolute success the session had been, taking two carp when I thought I may struggle to catch one! Without a doubt I'll be back soon to put some effort into catching more Wraysbury stunners. ■



39lb 7oz.



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