

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

[www.freelinemagazine.com](http://www.freelinemagazine.com)  
or [www.freelinemagazine.co.uk](http://www.freelinemagazine.co.uk)



**I'm Not Just Famous for Rainbow Any  
More, Son! Featuring Lee Mozza Morris  
Short Session Winter Success  
By Timothy Thornton  
The Special One By Perry Alabaster  
Four Seasons Part 1 by Mark and Emma Rose**

**25 Years of Horton by Keith Jenkins  
Big Carp Promotions – Le Queroy  
Spotted Fin Review by Rob Maylin  
Big Carp Promotions – Oak Lake Fisheries  
The Carp That Time Forgot by Josh Myatt  
Under the Radar by Sam Jefferys  
The Big Mirror by Rob Allen  
Holbrook Gardens by Leigh Steele  
The Farm Pit by Lee Bennett  
A Trip Down Meadow Lane by Dave Little**



**ADVERTISING AT REALISTIC PRICES**  
[info@bigcarpmagazine.co.uk](mailto:info@bigcarpmagazine.co.uk)  
*Over 35,800 email subscribers*

# 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	ABBEY
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 322

**SPECIAL  
ONES**

**Short Session  
Success  
– Tim  
Thornton**

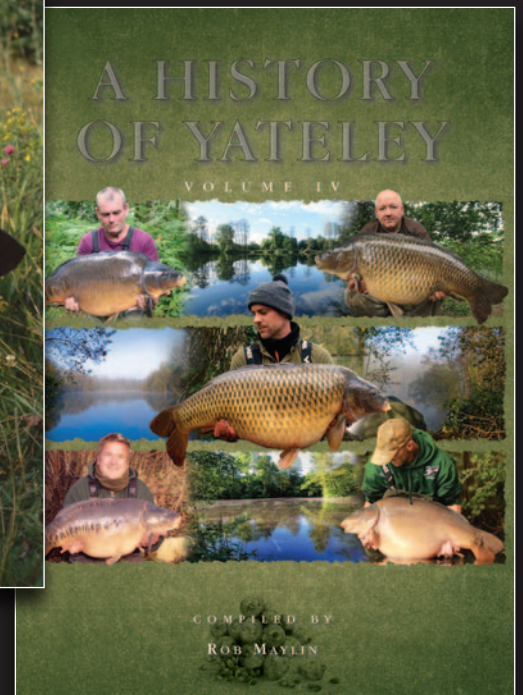
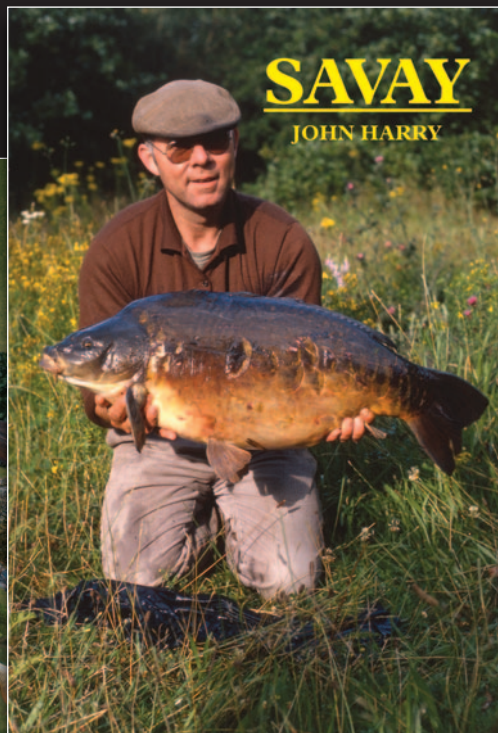
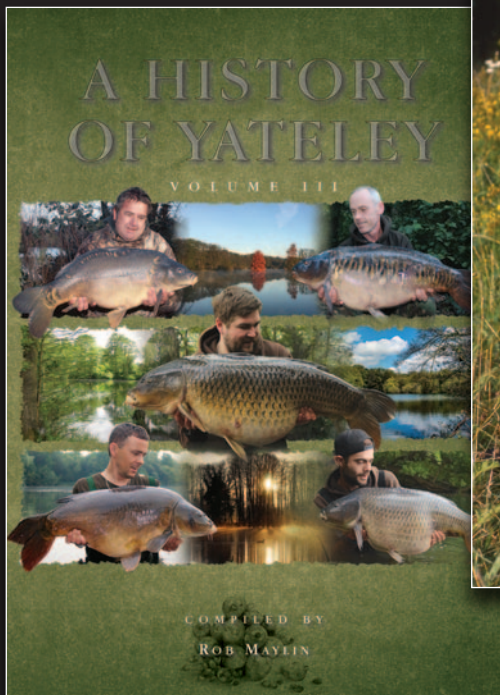
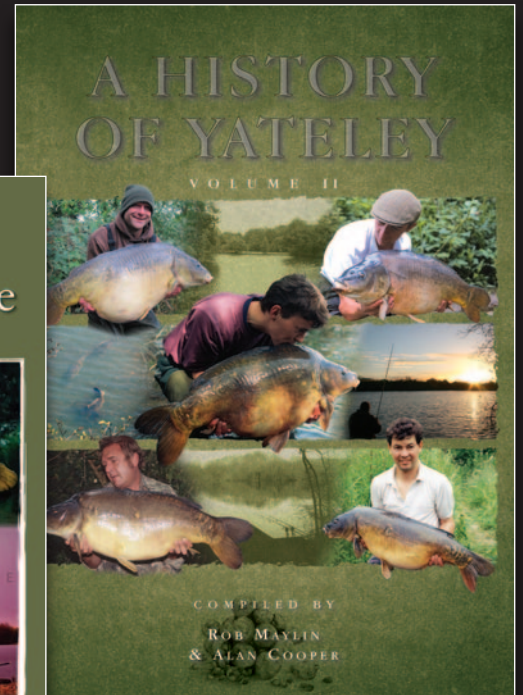
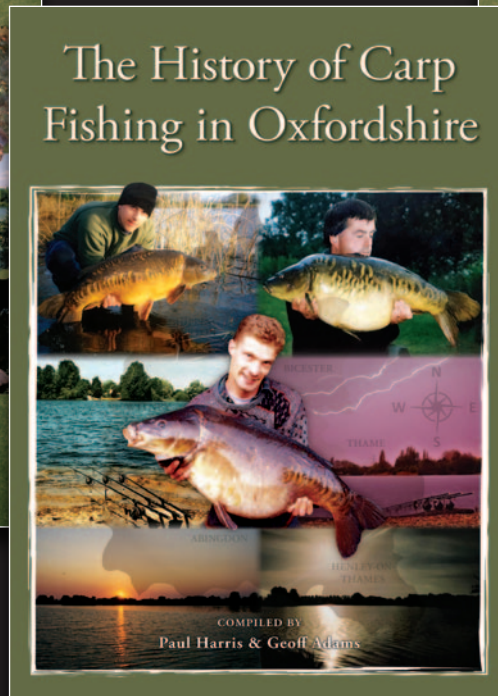
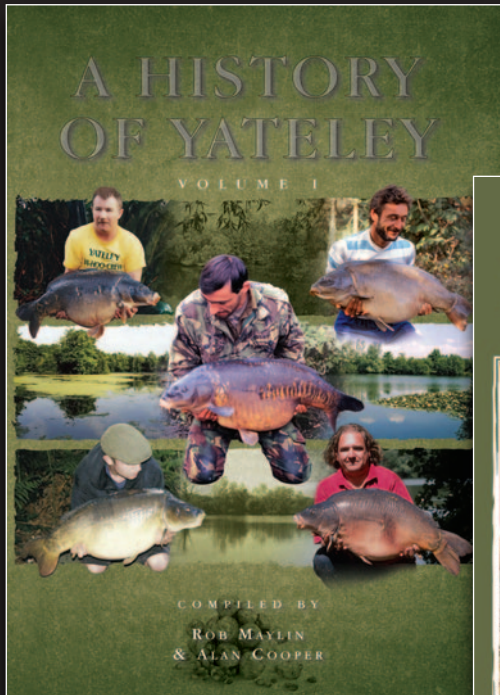


**I'm Not Just Famous for Rainbow Any More, Son!**  
**Featuring Lee Mozza Morris**  
**Four Seasons by Mark and Emma Rose**  
**Comprehensive Spring Catch Reports**  
**The Special One by Perry Alabaster**

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



# THE HISTORY SERIES



01252 373658  
[www.bigcarpmagazine.co.uk](http://www.bigcarpmagazine.co.uk)





## Special Ones

May is without a doubt the carp anglers' favourite month of the year. The carp are awake, on the move and hungry, making up for all those months where feeding was reduced to a small window when conditions allowed. Gone too are the winter temperatures, so for the carp angler it's so much more comfortable to be out on the bank. Without ten layers of cloths to stay warm. And it's not too warm either, not like July and August. Yes, May is definitely my favourite month of the carping calendar.

It's also a great time of the year to compile our catch report section, it can get a bit sparse over the winter but in April that all changes and 'The Special Ones' start to make their appearances for the first time of the year. The catch reports are one of my favourite parts of Big Carp and I always try to include everyone that's sent to me, either by email or social media. Sometimes one drops in your lap that takes your breath away, that's what happened recently, a truly incredible carp that just had to end up on our most prestigious front cover spot. A sixty plus fully scaled, the holy grail of carp captures, caught by Lee Mozza Morris, one of carp anglings really nice guys. Well done from all at BC, an unbelievable, immaculate, beauty, one of the best-looking carp we have ever featured on our cover in its 40 years.

Check out our comprehensive catch reports this month and every month for all the 'Special Ones' caught recently in the UK. And speaking of special ones check out Perry Alabaster's piece also in this issue, stunning.

Also, this month a new series begins from our husband-and-wife team, Mark and Emma Rose. Once again, they have been catching a few. Lots more from them coming up, this month we catch up on their early year results. Tim Thornton makes a welcome return this month too. Once again, it's some early year results and boy does this guy know how to catch them.

On a separate note, I've just started work on a couple of new books due out late summer, more info. on those in due course.

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 to help everyone through the pandemic, 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

### 48 I'm Not Just Famous for Rainbow Any More, Son!

Featuring Lee Mozza Morris

### 50 Short Session Winter Success

By Timothy Thornton

### 58 The Special One

By Perry Alabaster

### 62 Four Seasons

Part 1 by Mark and Emma Rose

## Big Carp Promotions

### 57 Oak Lake Fishery



# Content



Editor/Publisher

**Rob Maylin**  
**Bountyhunter Publications**  
44 Herbs End  
Cove, Hampshire  
GU14 9YD  
telephone 01252 373658  
facsimile 01252 373658  
mobile 07768 731425  
email:  
bigcarpstudio@hotmail.co.uk

**Design & Production**  
Colin Spray

**Advertising Sales**  
Bountyhunter Publications  
44 Herbs End  
Cove, Hampshire  
GU14 9YD  
tel/fax 01252 373658  
mobile 07768 731425

**BIG CARP 322**  
June 2023

Not to be stored or reproduced by any means, in any form, without the written permission of the publisher. Failure to obtain permission to reproduce material may result in legal action. Articles that appear in Big Carp Magazine are the property of Bountyhunter Publications and may be used in other publications as they see fit.

© **Bountyhunter Publications 2023**

**Front Cover**  
Lee 'Mozza' Morris with a 60lb 5oz monster.



## News & Reviews

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

38 **Tac-Tec**  
Latest product reviews

- Geoff Anderson
- Nite Watches
- Dynamite Baits
- Nite Watches
- Rapala
- Selkbag
- Dynamite Baits



## Advertising Index

KLS Tackle 2 Lake Serene, France 5 Reuben Heaton 9 IKTUS 17 Carp Tackle Online 21, 22 and 23 Coole Acre Lakes 27  
Bountyhunter 36 and 37 Selkbag 41 Cottington Lakes Carplounge 46 and 47 Oak Lake Fisheries 57 Bountyhunter 60 Bountyhunter 61  
Bountyhunter 67 Bountyhunter 73 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

## £150,000 available as Angling Trust and Environment Agency reopen funding to help tackle fish predation

The Angling Improvement Fund (AIF) has reopened for funding towards projects tackling the impacts of predation by otters and non-migratory fish-eating birds.

The AIF is administered by the Angling Trust and is just one of the ways the Environment Agency is reinvesting income from fishing licence sales in projects which benefit anglers across England.

£150,000 of rod licence money is being made available in this latest round of funding and applications for up to £6,000 funding are invited from clubs, fisheries and other angling-related organisations. All applicants must have consulted with one of the Angling Trust's Fisheries Management Advisors (FMA) before applying and should do so as soon as possible to gain the best possible chance of getting advice before the closing date of 28 April.

Since its launch in 2015, the AIF has made over 340 separate awards to clubs and fisheries for predation projects totalling over £1.2 million. Recent projects to help protect fish stocks have included: Providing funding for otter-proof fencing on still waters. Building fish refuges and floating islands to help tackle predation by fish-eating birds such as cor-



morants and goosanders.

Supporting measures to control mink.

Andy Petch, Angling Improvement Fund Manager for the Angling Trust said:

"Predation of fish stocks is a major concern among anglers and poses a threat to fisheries, so I am delighted that the Environment Agency has chosen to reinvest fishing licence income in projects to help tackle these issues.

"I would encourage clubs and fisheries with waters at risk from predation to consider applying for these



grants but please ensure you contact one of our Fisheries Management Advisors beforehand. They will be able to offer expert advice and assist you with your application."

Heidi Stone, Fisheries Partnership Manager from the Environment Agency said:

"Over the years the Environment Agency has supported hundreds of clubs and fishery owners in protecting their fish stocks through the Angling Improvement Fund which is funded through fishing licence sales and offers a direct benefit to our fishing licence holders. I look forward to supporting even more projects this year.

"Income from fishing licence sales also fund Fisheries Management Advisors who are on hand to offer expert advice across the country to venues experiencing predation problems."

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](mailto:AIFadmin@anglingtrust.net)

For more information about the Angling Improvement Fund and other funding opportunities visit the Funding section of the Angling Trust website. ■

## Carpy Humour







Anglers Against Cancer  
proudly present the  
**Linear Fisheries**  
(St.Johns or Manor)

**Fundraising Event**  
**8th - 10th September 2023**



**BIGGEST  
FUNDRAISER  
WINS**  
A TRIP TO LES QUIS

**Limited Tickets at £100 each**  
**Hog Roast included on Saturday (£10 for non-anglers)**

Bivvy City including Hog Roast £20 per person whether you stay 1, 2 or 3 nights from the Thursday.

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



**Tickets available on our web site Monday 27th February 2023 at 8pm**

The AAC Mega Raffle will be drawn on Sunday 10th September after the event has finished.

Tickets on sale on our Anglers Against Cancer Auction Site (Facebook Page).

**For more information visit: [www.anglersagainstcancer.co.uk](http://www.anglersagainstcancer.co.uk)**



## Angling Trust and Environment Agency reopen fund to help control invasive species and increase biosecurity

The Angling Improvement Fund (AIF) reopens on Friday, 14 April, for funding towards projects involved in tackling the spread of invasive non-native species and measures to increase biosecurity at angling venues.

The AIF is administered by the Angling Trust and is just one of the ways the Environment Agency is reinvesting income from fishing licence sales in projects which benefit anglers across England.

A total budget of £75,000 is being made available for this round.

Applications for up to £5,000 funding are invited from clubs, fisheries and other angling-related organisations.

All applicants must have consulted with one of the Angling Trust's Environment Officers before applying and should do so as soon as possible to gain the best possible chance of getting advice before the closing date of 26 May.

To find your local Environment Officer click here.

We also welcome joint applications from clubs and fisheries that wish to undertake a project covering larger areas.

The maximum award for catchment projects is £10,000.

Applicants should attempt to match the award with a similar amount of funding from their own sources and may include cash, volunteer time, donations, or a combination of all three.

Successful applicants will be expected to complete any funded projects by 31 December 2023.

Dr Emily Smith, Angling Trust Envi-

ronment Manager, said: "Invasive species present a major threat to fish and fishing, so I am pleased that the Environment Agency

has chosen to reinvest rod licence income through the Angling Improvement Fund to support action by anglers to control established invasive species and stop their introduction into new sites.

"Funding will support the purchase of equipment to tackle invasive species, training courses, and the installation of biosecurity facilities such as dip tanks.

It presents a fantastic opportunity for anglers to receive support to tackle this issue, and I would encourage any club or fishery to contact one of our Environment Officers to find out more on how to apply for this grant.

"Andy Petch, Angling Improvement Fund Manager for the Angling Trust, said: "This fund once again offers organisations the chance to bring about tangible benefits for anglers, and it all comes from funding provided by the sale of rod licences.

I want to see every penny available reinvested so please do make the effort to apply to the Angling Improvement Fund and help to ensure that existing and future fishing opportunities are protected.

"Heidi Stone, Fisheries Manager from the Environment Agency, said: "Anglers' enjoyment of their



sport can be seriously affected by the damaging impacts of invasive non-native species.

We are continuing to work closely with the Angling Trust to raise awareness and provide advice.

This investment of rod licence income is vital to enable clubs and fisheries to take action and protect their waters by improving biosecurity measures.

"In 2022, the Angling Improvement Fund approved grants totalling £100,000 for 19 different projects involved in controlling the spread of invasive species and measures to increase biosecurity at venues.

For more information about the Angling Improvement Fund and other funding opportunities visit the Funding section of the Angling Trust website.

An Angling Trust Online Forum on invasive species and funding available to clubs and fisheries is being held at 7pm on 18 April, attended by Dr Emily Smith, Andy Petch, and Environment Officers Drew Chadwick and Ian Doyle.

It will provide clubs and fisheries with the ideal opportunity to find out more about the AIF application process and ways in which the Angling Trust can offer support. ■

## Carpy Humour







**Fine quality fishing tackle  
since 1857**

[www.reubenheaton.com](http://www.reubenheaton.com)

For more on Reuben Heaton, Sportscale & RH brands  
call 01455 293000 or email [info@reubenheaton.com](mailto:info@reubenheaton.com)

Join Reuben Heaton on Facebook for all our latest news

**REUBENHEATON**



**EAGLE CLAW**  
**TROKAR**



**Exclusive distributors for eagle claw  
brands in the UK and Ireland**



## Take a Friend Fishing – Promote your TAFF incentives and your business via the TAFF Special Offers page.

Take A Friend Fishing is delighted to announce the launch of its TAFF Special Offers page, the perfect way for any fishery, club, retailer, charter or angling guide to promote their support for the TAFF initiative as well as their business.

### Statement

Angling Trades Association is well aware of the importance of small businesses to the UK angling trade and that our recruitment initiatives such as Take A Friend Fishing and National Fishing Month have the ability to increase footfall for fisheries, retailers and other businesses in real time as well as building potential customers for the future.

Every year, many small businesses use Take A Friend Fishing and National Fishing Month to offer incentives to fish or shop at their venues in support of our initiatives and we think that this fantastic work should not go unnoticed.

Registration for the TAFF Spring initiative is now live along with the new TAFF Special Offers page giving anglers plenty of time to plan for the bank holiday.

To promote your supporting offer for Take A Friend Fishing, go to our "Get Involved" we site page, scroll down, fill in and send off the trade form. Alternatively, you can contact the Association via [info@takeafriendfishing.co.uk](mailto:info@takeafriendfishing.co.uk) for a supporters form and offers information.

### Take a Friend Fishing Campaign Dates:

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

### A new angle for your Easter Holiday

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. Find out more about the TAFF initiative, what and who we are, when and where to go fishing and how to fish safely [www.takeafriendfishing.co.uk/#faqs](http://www.takeafriendfishing.co.uk/#faqs)

### 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.



### 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.

### Notes for editors:

Take a Friend Fishing (TAFF) is an Angling Trades Association initiative run in association with the Environment Agency and supported by the Angling Trust, Canal & River Trust and many other angling organisations. Take a Friend Fishing makes it easy for an existing angler to take someone they know fishing. This work is supported by the Angling Trades Association and Environment Agency rod fishing licence income and helps to introduce thousands of people to fishing each year. Find out more at [www.takeafriendfishing.co.uk](http://www.takeafriendfishing.co.uk)

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



An angler can Take a Friend Fishing during the Easter and or summer Take a Friend Fishing campaigns - enjoy a break from everything and experience the health and wellbeing benefits of fishing - register FREE at [www.takeafriendfishing.co.uk](http://www.takeafriendfishing.co.uk)



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 fisheries 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](https://www.facebook.com/TakeAFriendFishingTaff)

Instagram:

[www.instagram.com/taff\\_ata](https://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) To apply for membership of ATA contact [info@anglingtradesassociation.com](mailto:info@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>

### **About Close Seasons:**

Understanding about close seasons, is like having the right fishing licence, it's an important and essential part of becoming an angler and just like learning the rules of any sport. 'Close seasons' are times of the year when you can't fish for some types of fish on certain types of water. For example, you cannot fish for coarse fish on any river in England and Wales on 15th March right up until 15th June. That means that the Easter Take a Friend Fishing dates coincide with the annual close season for coarse fish on rivers, so you need to consider a canal or stillwater for your fishing adventure in that period.

You might be able to fish for salmon, brown trout and rainbow trout on some rivers during the coarse fish close season on rivers using certain types of lures and baits – local fishing byelaws to check what you can do in your area and remember too that some privately owned bodies of water can have their own close seasons. If you are new to fishing and want to try it during Take a Friend



Fishing, but are confused by this, the best thing to do is ask the angler you are going with, and make sure you both understand what the close season on rivers mean – it's all explained here on the Environment Agency web site.

## About Fishing Licences:

You will normally need a valid Environment Agency fishing licence if you

are aged 13 or over and fish for salmon, trout, freshwater fish, smelt or eel in England (except the River Tweed), Wales, and the Border Esk and its tributaries in Scotland. An annual fishing licence only costs £33.00 for up to 2 rods to fish for coarse fish & trout.

For a salmon and sea trout licence it's £86.10.

Licences are free for juniors aged 13 to 16 years of age. Concessionary, short term and three rod coarse fishing licences are also available. Visit [www.gov.uk/fishing-licences/buy-a-fishing-licence](http://www.gov.uk/fishing-licences/buy-a-fishing-licence) to buy one online. [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency) enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk ■

## Government Water Plan will fall short without money for enforcement against polluters

The Angling Trust has welcomed the publication of the Government's Plan for Water but warned that it will fall short without a reversal of the decade long programme of cuts to the Environment Agency's enforcement and pollution control budgets.

The Plan for Water which was launched today (April 4) contains mix of commitments, plans and funding, many of which have already been announced. It promises to deliver 'more investment, stronger regulation and tougher enforcement on those who pollute.'

The Environment Agency is to be given additional powers to impose unlimited fines on water companies who pollute. However, there is no mention of replacing the 56% cut in government funding for environment protection which saw EA budgets slashed in real terms from £218.8m in 2009/10 to £94.3m in 2021/22. The situation has now become so dire that last year the EA ordered pollution



control staff not to respond to Category 3 & 4 pollutions at all and the number of pollution incidents that triggered a visit has plummeted. Prosecutions for pollutions have fallen as a result to record lows - down from

nearly 800 a year in 2009 to just 17 in 2021.

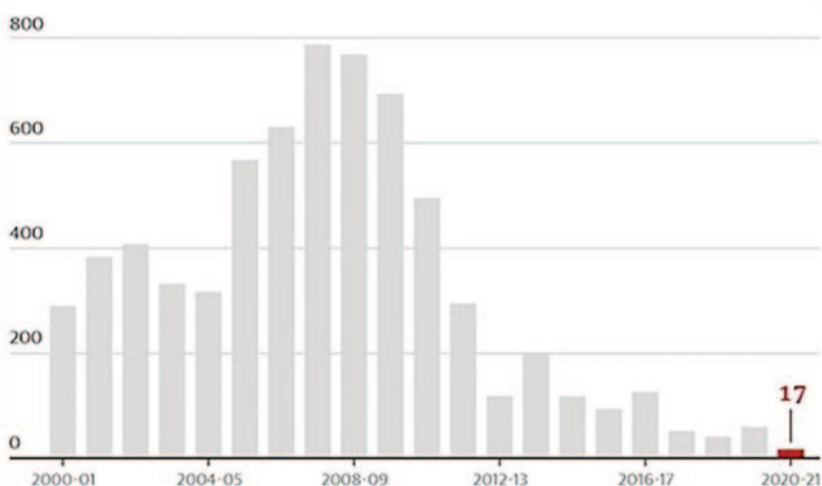
The Plan makes a number of bold promises, including to 'deliver clean and plentiful water' and the extraordinary claim that 'pollution in our rivers has significantly reduced' despite latest figures showing that during 2020 and 2021 storm overflows have discharged raw or partially treated sewage into our rivers on 760,000 separate occasions, lasting for a total period in excess of 5.7 million hours and the UK's top bathing beaches experienced 8,500 hours of sewage contamination. The number of discharges reduced slightly in 2022, which according to the Environment Agency was largely due to the drought rather than action by water companies, but storm overflows still spilled for over 1.7million hours.

However, the Plan does include a number of welcome measures that the Angling Trust have been calling for including:

- bringing forward infrastructure investment for new reservoirs,
- a ban on plastic wet wipes, and
- a new Water Restoration Fund

### The number of prosecutions undertaken by the Environment Agency decreased from 768 in 2008-09 to 17 in 2020-21

Prosecutions, 2000-01 to 2020-21



Guardian graphic. Source: National Audit Office analysis of Environment Agency data. Note: Prosecutions are assigned to financial years using the 'date of action' recorded. Multiple charges against the same offender are counted individually



using the proceeds of fines levied on polluters to improve environmental outcomes.

Martin Salter, Head of Policy at the Angling Trust said:

"Anglers have been fighting those who treat our rivers as open sewers since we first came together to form the Angling Conservation Association in 1948. Today, as the Angling Trust and Fish Legal, we welcome the fact that years of campaigning against the twin scandals of water industry and agricultural pollution has finally forced the government to try and put together a coherent plan for water.

"We are pleased that they have responded positively to our proposal to use the fines from polluters to improve the environment rather than providing the Treasury with a back door windfall tax. However, these must represent new money and not used as an excuse to cut existing budgets for habitat improvements or river restoration.

"And if ministers are serious about delivering 'clean and plentiful water' then they better start reversing the savage cuts made to the Environment Agency's pollution control budgets so that it has the staff and resources to actually bring polluters to court. Even a five year old knows you can't impose 'unlimited fines' without first securing a prosecution."

Stuart Singleton-White, Head of Campaigns, said:

"This plan is largely based on announcements and commitments already made across a range of policy areas, drawing as it does from the duties set out in the Environment Act 2021, proposals contained within the changes being made to agricultural subsidies, and the requirements of the Storm Overflow Reduction Plan. There is little that is new, but bringing it together into one plan will help when it comes to holding the government, water companies and the regu-

lators to account.

"What is welcome is the recognition in the plan of the complexity of issues our rivers and waterways face, not only sewage, but agricultural pollution, road run-off, litter and wet wipes, chemical contamination, and the impact of ever-increasing demand and over development."

More detail is needed before we can be confident this plan will deliver the change that is vital to protect our rivers, fish, and wildlife. Both the Secretary of State, the Rt Hon Thérèse Coffey, and the Minister, the Rt Hon Rebecca Pow, have said: "We know that people across the country want to see more progress in tackling pollution. We agree." But serious questions remain as to whether this plan will deliver unless the regulators are given the funding needed to ensure actions are delivered and enforcement is carried out when it is not, or where companies and individuals continue to pollute. ■

## Get Fishing Newsletter Looking for family activities? Come and Spring into Fishing!

### What is Spring into Fishing?

Have-a-go at Spring into Fishing and experience fun, friendly, family fishing.

Feel how good it is to get back outdoors.

See the kids enjoy peace and quiet in nature.

Events in April May and June mean you can get a guided fishing lesson in now to be ready for your own summer full of inexpensive angling activity together.

More info about what happens at Spring into Fishing events can be found at [www.anglingtrust.net/springintofishing](http://www.anglingtrust.net/springintofishing) or follow our socials.

Facebook: Get Fishing

TikTok: @getintofishing

Instagram: @getintofishing

SPRING INTO FISHING FLAGSHIP EVENTS





## Anglers take part in big clean-ups on rivers and lakes Leybourne Lakes Country Park in Kent River Irwell at Bury, Greater Manchester

Over 350 bags of rubbish, 25 tyres, an avocado toilet and an abandoned sign saying 'Cleaning in Progress' were among items removed from the banks of rivers and lakes during two 'Big Litter Picks' organised by the Angling Trust and Nash Tackle and supported by dozens of anglers

The litter picks were in support of Keep Britain Tidy's Great British Spring Clean initiative and took place at the River Irwell in Bury, Greater Manchester, and Leybourne Lakes Country Park in Kent

Nash celebrity carp anglers Alan Blair, Oli Davies and Julian Cundiff joined Angling Trust Environment Officers Ian Doyle (North) and Drew Chadwick (South) at the events which once again highlighted just how much anglers care about the environment

The Angling Trust's Anglers Against Litter campaign, sponsored by Shimano, has already provided litter picking kits to more than 60 angling clubs who carry out regular litter collections throughout the year,



with more kits being delivered to clubs in coming months

The Leybourne Lakes litter pick covered eight miles around nearly 200 acres of gravel pits and included volunteers from SWS Fisheries and local dog walkers

At the River Irwell litter pick, volunteers included representatives from Little Britain Anglers, Bury Council, British Canoeing, and litter collectors from Bury and Radcliffe

Ian Doyle said: "It was great to see so many people giving up their time

to make a real difference to an area of Bury that has had major issues with litter and fly-tipping

For many anglers, the place they fish is just as important as the fishing so keeping them free from pollution and litter is vitally important

"Drew Chadwick added: "These fantastic events were well supported by anglers and the local community, and their efforts have helped to improve the environment for everyone

Thank you to all who took part ■

## Pictures from River Irwell and Pictures from Leybourne Lakes litter pick





## Carpy Humour – The Mad Fishing World of Dr Kibble

I saw some of my old pike fishing friends the other day, Rob. Apparently, they haven't been up the Harris in years.

Saw a man at a boot sale throwing Bream fishing books at people. I couldn't figure out why at first. Then it hit me.

Breast fed carp anglers can cast further than bottled fed anglers. Was a theory I came up with in the eighties. I have always found women that breastfeed in public are so miserable though. They never smile when I take their photographs. Personally, I prefer bottled milk myself.

They say hard times are ahead, but I can remember hard times before. I once saw a homeless bloke sitting outside the gates of Darenth in the nineties. Holding a cardboard placard reading, 'No Dog, No Job, No Home'. So I chucked two quid into his cup. He said, "Thanks a lot Kibs, you just \*\*\*\*ed my soup right up!" Though the price of petrol is that expensive now. Even cab drivers are taking the shorter routes.

The other day I was sitting in my bivvy rubbing my man boilies, and a genie appeared. He said, "I can only grant you one wish, because times are tight". I said, "Are you from Bradford?" He said, "How do you know that?" I said, "By your accent, and I'm sure I have been in your cab before". He said, "I gave up the cab driving Kibs, petrol is far too expensive now, but what is your wish? I said, "I just want to be happy." Now I'm living in an old cottage with six dwarfs, and

working down a blimmin diamond mine.... I haven't even seen Snow White's tackle box yet.

A long suffering carp angler's wife runs into the dentist. Straight through the doors of the dental treatment room. Not even stopping at reception. Pulls off her knickers from under her skirt, leans back in the leather orthodontic chair, with either leg cocked over each arm. The Dentist says, "Excuse me love, I'm not a gynecologist!" She said, "I know that, I just want you to remove my husband's false teeth."

Every time there is a knock at the door. My dog always runs to the front door excited, wagging his tail. I don't know why, it's never for him. Though when you get older the mind gets a little forgetful at times. I left him at a lake accidentally recently for three days. When I rushed back to pick him up, you could see by his face he was fuming. Sitting in the club carpark with the right hump. He gave it to me with both barrels. He said, "You furkin idiot Kibble. You left me here on my own for three days to defend for myself. Having to drink water out of muddy puddles. Having to steal chicken feed from the local farm preventing me from suffering hours of starvation. Someone caught a forty off of the far bank, but I couldn't even be bothered to go around, and help out with the photographs. I've been so depressed I didn't even fancy sniffing another dog's ass!"

Though in the nineties I visited Doncaster in Yorkshire to check some

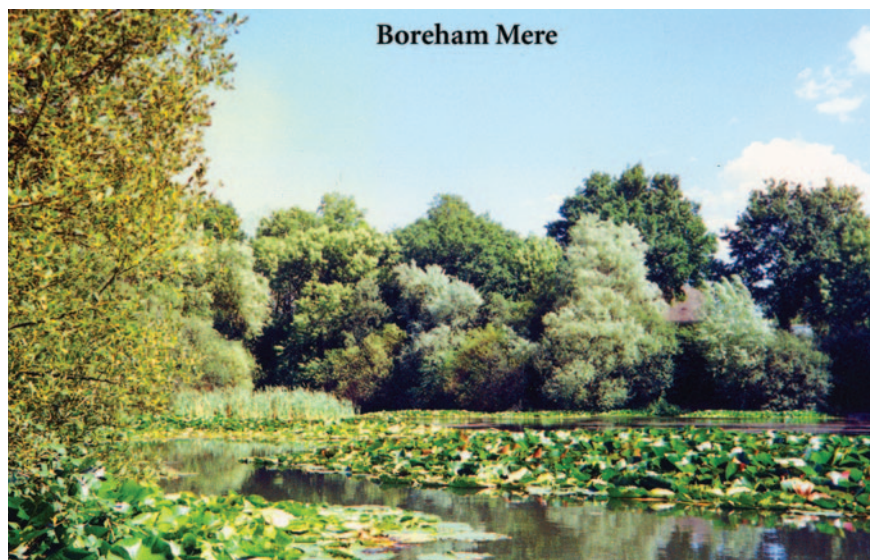
lakes out. They had even named a river after Derek Ritchie. The River Don. Obviously, he must have visited there himself once. Though I stayed in a posh hotel. Some of you might know of it. In a beautiful part of the world. Just on the outskirts of a place known as Carcroft. At a Premier Inn. Carcroft is known for being a bit of a tourist trap. If you are wearing expensive jewellery, you probably won't leave there still wearing it. Though sitting in the bar I'm sure it was Simon Crow with a beautiful blond lady who looked a little like Pamela Anderson. Turned out they were staying in the room next door to me. At just gone one o'clock in the morning though, it started. I could hear his headboard banging on my wall, and she was making all sorts of noises. This went on for nearly an hour. Clearly, he was having a bit of a session. I thought to myself no wonder he does marathons. I nearly gave him a round of applause for being such a stallion, and having such good stamina, but it's really difficult doing so with just one hand.

A priest once told me. That over feeding the ducks not only could send you blind, but can cause terrible arthritis in the wrists in years to come. A week later I was at a lake, and Pete Regan passed by my bivvy wearing really dark glasses, and being pulled along by a guide dog.

A geezer went to the Essex Carp Show. Turns up really late at a hotel he is staying in at Brentwood. As he runs to the front desk in the lobby. He accidentally bumps into a woman,







Boreham Mere

and as he does his elbow hits her breast. They are both quite startled. The geezer turns to her and says, "Sorry love, if your heart is as soft as your breast, I know you'll forgive me." She replies, "If your tinkly winkly is as hard as your elbow, I'm in room 102."

I get asked some weird stuff at lakes sometimes. A lad said to me last week. "When you were out in Ibiza Kibs, did you ever have sex on the beach?" I didn't realise he was talking about the drink. I said, "Only once, but it wasn't much cop though, because she did one of those fanny farts. I didn't mind though, because it blew the sand off of my boilies".

A young fishing couple from Hitchin, took their ten year old son to the doctor. With some hesitation, they explained that, although their little angel appeared to be in good health, they were concerned about his rather small penis. After examining the child, the doctor confidently declared, "Just feed him pancakes. That should solve the problem." The next morning, when the boy arrived at breakfast, there was a large stack of warm pancakes in the middle of the table. The young lad said "Are they all for me Mum?" She replied with, "Just take two, the rest are for your father."

Couple of years back. I had a big party with many old carping friends. One of them said to me, "You must have some money Kibs, a gold toilet!" The idiot had shat in my old trombone.

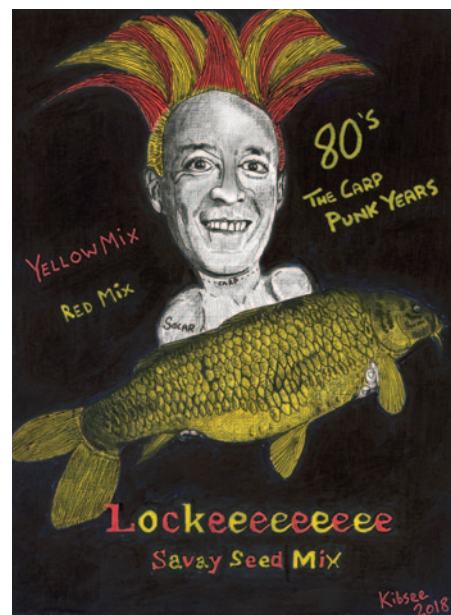
Sideways Sally is driving her car down a country road when she sees another blonde woman out in a field in a rowing boat. She can clearly see the woman rowing the boat as hard as she can to move the boat in the field. She pulls over, gets out of her car and yells "Hey, stupid! You're giv-

ing all of us blondes a bad name! If I didn't have somewhere important to be. I would swim out there and kick your ass."

I'm not happy Sideways Sally is no longer into bondage, but my hands are tied. Bondage was getting easier as we got older. Years ago I had to blindfold her. In the end I used to just hide her glasses. A young carp angler's Mum was cleaning his bedroom up when she found a load of serious bondage gear, and fetish mags. She asked her husband: "What shall we do?" Husband said, "I'm no expert, but I wouldn't spank him!"

A full time carp angler, who rarely was at home for most of the summer. His Mother said to his wife when their baby was born: "I don't mean to be rude but he doesn't look anything like my son." The daughter-in-law lifted her skirt up and said, while clearly wearing no knickers, "I don't mean to be rude either, but this is a pussy, not a photocopier."

One beautiful day in Heaven, Jesus and Moses were fishing in a lake. After a while of silence, Jesus asked Moses, "Hey Moses, can you still do it? You know...Your thing'?" Moses then answered, "I don't know, let me see if I still got it!" He then stood up and drew his arms forwards, and then separated them. As soon as he did it, the lake's water divided into two and the boat fell to the dry bottom of the lake. Moses happily then said, "Ah ha! I can still do it!" Then after he closed his arms and the lake came back to normal, with the boat rising on top of it, he then asked Jesus, "So, how about you? Can you still do it, 'your thing'?" Jesus then answered, "Only one way to find out!" Jesus then stood up and jumped out of the boat, and started walking on the lake. But



after a few minutes of walking on water, he then fell into the water and started drowning. Moses, seeing this, rushed to save Jesus and get him out of the water. When Jesus was finally saved, Moses, looking confused, then asked him, "Hey, what happened? How did you fall into the water?" Jesus, still breathing faintly, then answered him, "I just remembered I've now got holes in my feet from that other day."

Some of you have asked if I still fish with my personal assistant Miss Humper. She wasn't actually my personal assistant, but back in the day we used to work for the same building firm. She used to just pop over to Aquatels lake in very windy conditions, or in the colder months in the nineties to help me erect my old Shakespeare. It was a cheap and cheerful bivvy tent, back in the day. Sometimes it was difficult to get the poles within the flaps. Especially in the winter months, without lubricant, and Miss Humper's nibble fingers. The pole would on many occasions get stuck at times, between the flaps. Miss Humper could erect anything within seconds. Though Miss Humper should not ever be confused with my old Dutch girl friend Vlinder Titshof. Who I knew from my clubbing days. Although they were both blondes, and looked very similar. They are definitely not of the same kind.

I once went out with a blind lady. She said, "You could put anything in my hands Doc, and I can tell you what it is." Started off with things like catapults, rodbands, marker float, indicator chains etc. She got all of them correct. So I then handed her my old Cobra throwing stick. I thought she'll



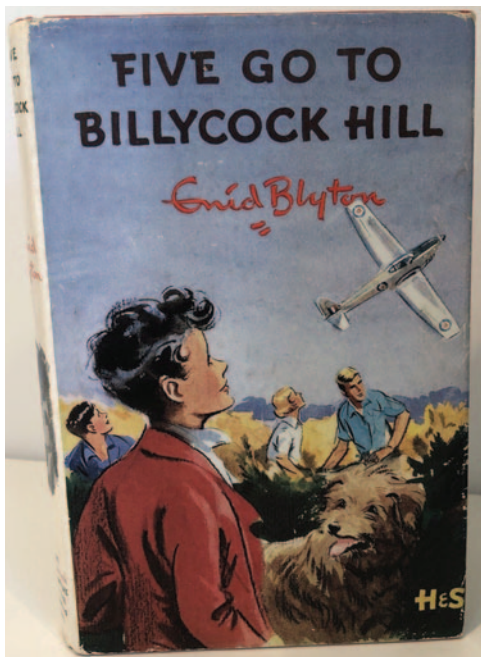


# FISHING RESORT



[https://naxiresa.inaxel.com/etape1-criteres.php?  
compte=iktus&lang=2](https://naxiresa.inaxel.com/etape1-criteres.php?compte=iktus&lang=2)





never get this one in a million years. She said, I've got one of these, but mine still vibrates. She said, "This has been well over used though". I said, "You can tell all that, just by touch?" She said "No, the tip stinks of fish." Clearly my Sticky Baits Krill boilies were to blame.

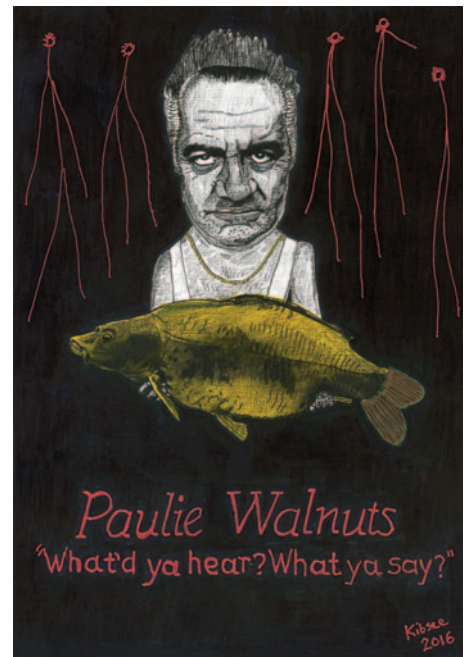
A geezer said to me last week. "What happened to your curly hair Kibble?" I haven't had any hair for nearly over 25 years now. I can still grow hair, but it only grows upwards. If I let it grow, it makes me look like the old wrestler Mick McManus on acid. Especially if I was to wear a pair of Pauline Selman's old budgie smugglers. I did once go to buy a wig from a posh shop in the Westend of London. The lady behind the counter said, "We have this type for £100, but it doesn't wash up very well. Though we have these ones, that are all around about £500 in price, which are all made of mono fibre. They all wash up really well, like real hair. Also we have this one that just came in this morning, made from the top pornstar Jelena Jensen's pubic hair for £5,000." I said, "I'll have that one please". She said, "Would you like me to wrap it?" I said, "No thank you, I'll eat it now!"

Though dogging has now become an epidemic at many carp lakes. Especially if they haven't got a lockable gate. I once had a walk around Fen Drayton lakes in Cambridgeshire. When it started to get far too dark. I made my way back to the car. In the car park there was a crowd of old blokes standing around a lit up car, holding out their camera phones. I could see a man's naked harris inside

the car, and a lady with a seat belt across her naked breasts. Then a geezer arrived wearing a head torch dressed all in green on the other side of the car to me. He said in a loud voice, "What is going on here then?" He sounded like Jim Shelley. So I shouted back, "There's life Jim, but not as we know it!" He then sat down in a collapsible green fishing chair, pulled out a thermos flask from a bag, and started eating sandwiches from a tupperware box. Though was it really Uncle Jim?

Though I blame the grey hair brigade myself. My old fishing mate Barry kept saying to his wife. Just taking the dog for a walk up the lake tonight love. Three weeks later she thought to herself. We haven't got a dog though. She was never the brightest torch, in the tackle bag. One year, she asked him what he wanted for Christmas. He said surprise me love, get me some new tackle. Christmas morning came, and Barry started undoing his presents from her. Nash Lube, handcuffs, Wip, a blow up doll, and cowboy chaps. Clearly she'd been to a totally different type of tackle shop. Though I can't go into those bondage shops in Soho anymore. The smell of rubber gives me flashbacks, of when I was serving my bivvy gimp apprenticeship in the eighties.

An old man is fishing at a lake when a frog approaches him. The frog says "If you kiss me, I'll turn into a beautiful woman and fall in love with you." The old geezer is amazed. He



picks up the frog, stuffs him in his pocket and heads off for home. On the drive home, the frog starts squirming and making a fuss, so the man takes the frog out of his pocket. The frog says "Hey, did you not hear what I said? Just kiss me, and you'll have the woman of your dreams!" The old man replies "I'm 80 years old. I'd much rather have a talking frog."

Years ago in Big Carp magazine there was a photograph reading Ali Hamidi's goat herding masterclass. Sent in by Ty of 'Big Fish Tackle'. For some reason, many thought I'd sent it in. I would never mislead people like that. The only Shepherd I know is Lockeeeee.

Lockeeeee once asked me if I wanted to go on a double date in the nineties. I said I don't mind going on a double date, but only if it doesn't involve shearing anything.

Three brothers from Dartford in Kent own a sheep, which suddenly dies. The sheep being almost a part of their family, and a major income source for the family, the three brothers become very heartbroken and decide to commit suicide in the nearby river. So they approach the river and are almost about to jump in when a fairy comes out of the river. Fairy said, "If any one of you is able to satisfy me sexually, I'll bring the sheep back from the dead." Brother one takes her into the woods and comes back with her after one hour. The fairy says she's not impressed. Brother two takes her into the nearby woods and comes back with her after 3 hours. The fairy says she's still not impressed. Now brother three takes



her into the woods and comes back with her the next day after almost 24 hours. The fairy, clearly exhausted and almost dead, says to the other two brothers, "I'm giving your sheep back. Your brother is just insane. I haven't seen such sexual stamina in my life before." One of the brothers replies with, "How do you think the sheep died?" Though the moral of that story is. Clearly the fairy had never stayed a night in a Premier Inn with Crowley.

Two of my favourite fishing books have to be Tiger Bay, and Fox Pool. I loved the 'Famous Five' section also. Clearly nothing to do with Enid Blyton. Though my first Enid Blyton book was 'Five Go To Billycock Hill'. That was like treasure in my school days. Though Mr Maylin and Co must be part of the carping old boy network now. Though I don't know if any of them will receive a knighthood from Prince Charles. Some of these old boys have got big old boys on them though. I once heard a rumour Steve Alcott was laying naked on a beach somewhere in the Indian Ocean, and after a few sherbets, and popping a viagra. He decided for a laugh, after a new stiff rig popped up. He'd paint his waggler in red and white stripes, and put an isotope on the tip of it. He fell asleep under the sun. Causing in the dark of night a pirate ship to crash into some nearby rocks, confusing Steve's tinkly winkly for a lighthouse. The Captain wasn't too happy, but it put a smile on Tinkerbell's face. ONLY A RUMOUR THOUGH !

I saw that Adam Penning did a short article in Big Carp recently. I don't think I've ever met him at a lake before. Though I have some old Korda

DVD's with him giving some blinding advice on them. Always been a big fan of his short vids. Though I was at a fancy dress party years ago in deepest Essex. Around the mid nineties. Where the theme was Venetian type wear only. Most of the women were wearing Columbina, or Gatto cat like masks. Some even wore the Arlecchino Harlequin-like mask. I was wearing a Scaramuccia, or as some would say a Scaramouche mask. Not to be confused with a Dottore Peste mask. I don't mean to sound like an expert. Though you weren't allowed to reveal your real identity at the party. Though there was a cheeky chappy there full of joyfulness. Wearing blue stockings on his legs. I always wondered if it was Adam himself. I don't know why he was wearing a batman's mask and

outfit though. Clearly he'd been sent the wrong invite that month. Super heroes fancy dress wear was the month earlier. Though I've never ever bumped into him on any lakes in the years to come. To even ask him, if it was him. Small world though isn't it!

Though life is full of dilemmas. While typing this I was thinking to myself should I have a Bacardi, and coke, or a Kraken and coke, or Havana and coke. Or mix all three together with coke. Or go for a Auchenstoshan malt scotch whisky with lemon juice, and honey. Or go for a Laphroaig with ginger ale. Though my old fishing mate Pete loves a Bishop's Finger. I said to him, that's probably why you were in that church choir for over fifteen years.

Tight Braids, and Trousers! Kibsee (Steve 'Doctor' Kibble)

**The coarse fish #CloseSeason started in the 15th March, meaning it's illegal to fish for coarse fish in rivers until 15 June inclusive. Our Fisheries Officer Matt Buck explains why the close season is so important Learn more: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/close-season-for-coarse-fishing-begins-in-time-for-first-day-of-spring>**



## CWCUK needs your support



**Need the support of All AAC Members, plenty of places left on St. Johns at our Main Event – Plenty of items still for sale on our website, and so far, poor response to our Raffle Ticket Sales – REMEMBER WHY WE DO THIS. We get so much support from Fishing companies, Tackle Companies and Bait Companies who donate some fantastic Raffle Prizes, amazing support from Fishery Owners in the UK, France and Thailand. WE DO THIS TO RAISE FUNDS FOR CWCUK Could this be the last year we exist! Hopefully not.**



## Get Fishing Fund helps improve mental health, low self-esteem and get hundreds of kids outdoors

A special fund for fishing run by angling's NGB and the Environment Agency has helped thousands of people of all ages and from diverse communities enjoy the positive health and wellbeing effects that come from simply casting a line and spending time by water.

When the Environment Agency and Angling Trust launched its latest 'Get Fishing Fund' in late 2022 the response was incredible - over 250 applications were made for a share of the £200,000 funding pot. With money provided from the licence bought by anyone who goes freshwater fishing in England and Wales, this is an ingenious way for a sport that ranks alongside football and swimming for having the most active participants, to reinvest in its own future.

The Get Fishing Fund saw applications not only from its own community of angling clubs and venues, many charities and schools came forward too and helped swell the numbers proposing to create more opportunities to go fishing. These were eventually whittled down to 113 successful applicants and included some exciting ways for people to discover why fishing is good for you.

Successful projects included school's establishing their own fishing clubs to get more kids active in the great outdoors, charities organising health and wellbeing projects and new coaching programmes to encourage people to excel in the sport.

Head of Participation at the Angling Trust Clive Copeland commented: "The Get Fishing Fund has seen thousands of people discover the magic of fishing. This latest round of funding with applications from a diverse array of organisations, reflects the fact that fishing has a broad spectrum of appeal – partly because it's so simple to get into, is inexpensive and it doesn't take long to create smiles all-round when people spend time together outdoors enjoying the fun and challenges that fishing offers to allcomers"

Heidi Stone, Fisheries Manager from the Environment Agency said: "Angling is a much-loved sport that appeals to people of all ages and through the Get Fishing Fund, we've seen some fantastic, creative projects that encourage individuals to get involved and reap the health and



wellbeing benefits that fishing can bring.

"By investing the income from the sale of rod licences, we're able to support numerous clubs, fisheries and other organisations, increasing angling opportunities that are available to the public."

After this year's round of Get Fishing Fund awards over 300 projects have now been able to access fishing licence income to help get more people fishing!

Luke Rose from the Birmingham & Solihull Mental Health Trust told us: "We've been able to deliver weekly fishing sessions to people from our area who are experiencing their first episode of mental illness, specifically psychosis. Going fishing together helps peers and parents to build relationships by taking part in an activity that brings family members closer together. Seeing people who would have otherwise not left the house get out fishing has been amazing."

Paul Slater from Donington Angling Club in Lincolnshire was similarly enthusiastic when he let us know

that: "As a result of the Get Fishing Fund we have increased the club's Junior Membership by an incredible 300%! This has really helped raise the profile of the club within the community".

A spokesperson for Living Sober CIC, a community organisation that provides support to men and women in the North East, said: "We are charitable organisation set up as a peer led recovery community. Each of the 12 have-a-go fishing events was eagerly anticipated by the group of 6 to 10 mostly newcomer participants, and helped with confidence issues and low self-esteem. The events were truly wonderful, spirits were always high, and we even managed to catch a few fish! One of the many benefits of the Angling Trust and Environment Agency fund, has been affording us the opportunity to spend very special time together as a group in the great outdoors."

For more information and details on events and activities that have been created as part of the Get Fishing Fund visit [www.anglingtrust.net/get-fishing](http://www.anglingtrust.net/get-fishing). ■





# CARP TACKLE ONLINE

**NEW PRODUCTS, BEST  
SELLERS AND DEALS**

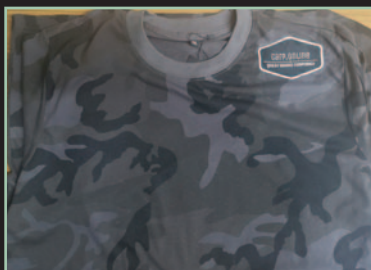
carp.online

QUALITY WITHOUT COMPROMISE

**CARP TACKLE ONLINE**  
**WWW.CARPTACKLEONLINE.COM**



Swivel Deal



T-Shirt



Hoody



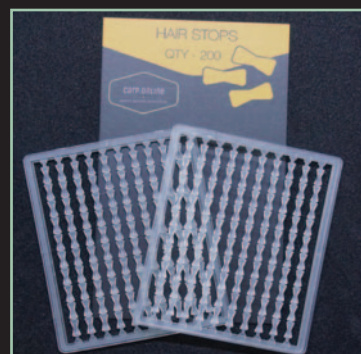
Shrink Tube



Tungsten Putty



Hook Beads



Hair Stops



Tungsten Hooklink  
Sinkers



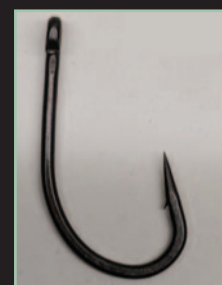
Swivels



Scorpion Chod Hooks



Scorpion Crank Hook



Scorpion Snag Hook



Chod Filament



Composite Leadclips



Choddy Crank Hook



Scorpion Ronnie Rig



Tungsten Kickers



Hair Aligners

**www.carptackleonline**

See us on Facebook





# CARP TACKLE ONLINE

**NEW PRODUCTS, BEST  
SELLERS AND DEALS**

carp.online

QUALITY WITHOUT COMPROMISE

**CARP TACKLE ONLINE**  
**WWW.CARPTACKLEONLINE.COM**

## A Few Recent Captures Caught on carptackleonline Products



Team member John Paul McCusker had a very productive two days down on Monks Pit this week getting amongst some fish: Landed six lovely carp, two going over the 30 barrier. Another three fish going 25, 26 and 28. The Last morning had a mental four-hr spell landing four fish. Made the 170 mile journey home a lot more enjoyable. Caught using plenty of #mainlinebaits and pellet on 2 rods and zig on the 3rd rod Using #carponline size 4 #Scorpion hooks and #carponline zig hooks" Well done, John.





We are absolutely stoked to have Bruce McCarlie join our team! Bruce really needs little introduction, he is known for catching big carp, from the UK and abroad, long time Mistral Baits man with many years of experience in the fishing world. We look forwards to working with Bruce, welcome on board.



Really good weekend for team member Jack Caro on the bank with fellow team member James Johnson. Even better to have some fish out as well all caught using size 6 Scorpion Crank hooks and carp tackle online end gear to seal the deal. Ending up with 5 carp (28lb, 27lb, 18lb, 15.7lb, 13.7lb). Well done, Jack.



An absolutely stunning dark 21lb 4oz common caught by team member Luke Woolley. Like used a hinge stiff rig made out of our CTO Chod Filament, Flexi Ring Swivels and ultra-sharp Scorpion Chod Hooks. Well done, Luke.



Well first fish of 2023 for team member Jarred Howard and it's a banger of a common 25lb dead on 1 of a 6 fish session with a couple high doubles caught using our Size 4 Scorpion Wide Gape hooks, CTO Pro Hooklink, Oval Ring Bait Screw and the Composite Safety Leaders with Ring Swivels. Well done Jarred, perfect scale common!



More success for team member Tim Thornton @oldskoolcarp on Durleigh Res, this time Tim fished at 120 yards with his go to rig an IQ2 D tied using our size 4 Scorpion Crank hook. Tim caught a 27lb 8oz mirror and 23lb 8oz common on this session. Well done, Tim!



See us on  
Facebook

[www.carptackleonline](http://www.carptackleonline.com)





### Ryan Butt catch report

New customer Ryan recently attended a mainline baits social at Sandhurst where he ended up 9th in the draw, undeterred he found a nice gravel patch at 20 wraps and baited with mainline cell pellets and maize that was liberally dosed with our solution.

He finished his session with his new PB of 46lb 2oz, a 38lb mirror and a 42lb mirror. This is a session he will never forget. Impulse is best applied to pellets as they soak in more of the Amino goodness than boilies and it's also on sale right now!

[Impulsesupplies.com](http://Impulsesupplies.com)



### James Daniels catch report

Wow! A very special Personal Best from UK angler James Daniels. James recently landed the incredible "Fossil" from Todber Manor Fisheries at a great weight of 35.8lb. He used Crypton Carp main line, and D rigs made from Manta in brown... Simply perfect! Congratulations on your PB James and thank you for choosing #KatranFishingLine!



### Tom Maker catch report

The final fish from my session down at Millhayes Lakes and Lodges was this stunning lineal, every morning it was like clockwork, I would drop the rigs in along the dam wall at 7am and by 9am both of the rods would have gone, and that's exactly what happened on the final day but rather than re dropping them back to the same area I noticed a small set of bubbles in the middle of the lake so decided to flick the same rig/bait with a light lead just past them and slowly wind it back to drop it down right in the middle of the area - 20 minutes before we were due to leave and off it trundles - a fitting end to a brilliant session!





### Andy Sprinks Lewis catch report

Just another day at the office, buzzing isn't the word another PB on the bank from this trip having this stunning fish at 45lb 2oz



### Ian Castle catch report

Puffy 42lb 12oz, last gasp carp from the car park seasoned baits doing the business. Happy days.



### Charlie Port catch report

On a recent overnighter on his syndicate Charlie Port managed to land a new personal best, which was the Queen of the pond. This scale perfect 40lb 2oz common. He opted for Blowback rigs comprising of size 4 Ape-X Beaked Point hooks, 20lb CamoX hooklink, some of our green Shrink Tubing and Rock Bottom Tungsten Putty to keep it all pinned to the lake bed. Big up to Dave Levy on the buttons.

#RidgeMonkey #DoYouEvenRidgeMonkey #Fishing #Angling #





### Roger Bacon catch report

After starting off with bags and receiving a bite on the first morning, Roger decided to commit to the peg he was in and introduced a load of 8mm and 12mm Bug freezer bait that he had pre-soaked in Bug Liquid Food. That day he would go on to land eight fish in total, including two 40-pounders! Topping up the swim with another 8kg of boilies at night, Roger was awake just before first light the next morning in anticipation of a bite, and shortly after dawn broke all hell broke loose, with all four rods ripping off within 15 minutes of each other. It got so hectic; Roger had to call the angler next door to bring over a net. Amongst that quartet of bites was a 50lb 8oz mirror, following on from the 60lb 8oz, 51lb 6oz and 50lb 4oz giants that have already graced his nets this year. As is usual, Pink Peril pop-ups fished over a large bed of Bug did the damage for Roger. Roger added: "There aren't enough superlatives for The Bug; it is dominating the place at the moment. All the anglers who have got on it have seen their results improve."



### Clint Miller catch report

Clint Miller, 46lb 8oz the biggest of three from a weekend trip to the Riverton syndicate in Devon. All caught on S2. Well done Clint, good angling. #sugars2 #carpdugs #dontcompetedominate



### Conor McIlhone catch report

Conor McIlhone on Oxlease landed his new PB of 40lb 8oz! Caught on solid bags of Parker Baits Mini Mix pellets. Great angling Conor and congratulations. #linear #linearbaitandtackle #linearfisheriesofficial #linearfisheries #gocatch #manorfarm #b1 #guyssyndicate #hardwicksmiths #tarfarm #oxlease #huntscorner #b2 #stjohns #huntscornerpond #onesummerpond #floatlake





# Coole Acres Fishery

Premier Cheshire Day Ticket Complex

Coole Lane • Nantwich • Cheshire

CW5 8AY



We have three well stocked lakes catering for anglers of all abilities and preference. Lodge pool, Spanner lake and our specimen lake, Fox, offer something for everyone.

- Carp up to 32lb and Catfish to 49lb 12oz.
- Café serving hot and cold food.
- Showers available for overnights.
- Designated car park for anglers located directly between lakes.
- Toilet block with male/female/disabled toilets at the car park.
- Disabled pegs at two coarse lakes and 12 bark chipped pegs available for overnighting at the specimen lake.



Visit us on Facebook

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

07899 735052

[cooleacresfishery1@gmail.com](mailto:cooleacresfishery1@gmail.com)







## Aaron Mcilwaine catch report

A fresh south-westerly wind had arrived and, to my surprise, the end of the lake that received this was empty! I settled for a swim I had fished before, so after a quick lead about just to check the areas from my notes were still good to present on, the rods were soon positioned. The first take came at around 4am and I was off the mark with a lovely 36lb 12oz mirror – what a result! Once the rod was repositioned and daylight arrived, a lovely mid-twenty called me into action, soon followed by a chunky 37lb 14oz mirror.

The rest of the day passed with no further bites until evening, which was when something very special indeed happened! Once I caught glimpse, I quickly realised that I was attached to Gaunts Lake's Big Common! She pulled the scales around to 46lb 2oz, this being her heaviest-ever recorded weight and, for me, a new UK PB! Admittedly, this was a recapture, but I definitely wasn't going to complain with such an immaculate and sought-after carp! I went on to catch 10 fish from Gaunts before the fish moved off. I then dropped on to Unity Lake where I landed another two fish, one being a lovely 33lb 3oz common. Then, I finally moved on to Yeomans lake to bank a further 11 fish, including a mega-looking 31lb 2oz mirror, bringing my total for the session to 23 fish!





### Aidan Whitehall catch report

Aidan Whitehall moved to B2 for the day and landed 9 carp to 30lb! All fell to Dynamite Baits yellow Hit and Run popups over Sweet Tiger and corn boilies, hemp and XL sweetcorn. Awesome as always Aidan. #linear #linearbaitandtackle #linearfisheriesofficial #linearfisheries #gocatch #manorfarm #b1 #guyssyndicate #hardwicksmiths #tarfarm #oxlease #huntscorner #b2 #stjohns #huntscornerpond #onesummerpond #floatlake



### Dan Foakes catch report

Urban consultant and big fish supremo Dan Foakes with an incredible looking common. At a little over 40lb, this cold-water majestic monster couldn't resist a little Nutcracker hookbait. Available now at [www.urbanbait.co.uk](http://www.urbanbait.co.uk) and from all good tackle retailers.



### Dane Elliot catch report

Big congratulations to Dane Elliot who after a run of the smaller stunning carp and with winter drawing to an end finally caught one of Kingsmeads larger residents, 'Scar' weigh in at 55lb 2oz. The Cell once again making the difference. Well done, Dane. #bigcarp #mainlinebaits #carp #carpfishing #boilies #cell





## Ash Bradbury catch report

TB to January just gone! Unbelievable conditions for January, a prolonged period of mild weather lead to an electric sun. Where the fish put on a display giving their location away! Sea Monsta Boilie, crumb, pellet plus all the matching liquids, powders and corn were soon deployed to the area and 2 bites later Sparkies Sister from the Top Lake @ashbury\_fisheries at a massive 45lb 4oz was laying in my net! The New Tails Up website is now live and the full article is also now available so if you haven't taken a look, click the link above. @georgeccook @tailsupbait @cornz\_plastic\_free #tailsupbait #seamonsta #cornz #ashburyfisheries #toplake #lakerecord #bigcarp #carpfishing



## Archie Parker catch report

Big congratulations to Archie Parker on the capture of this 38lb common from Ham Pool. Archie said he noticed on waking the weather was fair Saturday morning but cold - He didn't have to wait long before his Diamond White Pop-Up was picked up and the big common, and new Personal Best was on the end. Well done, Archie. #bigcarp #carp #carpfishing #mainlinebaits #fishing



## Carl Pettitt catch report

Here's a rather special picture of our team member @mycamoalien (Carl Pettitt) holding his new PB common at 44lb, caught during what has to be one of his best sessions ever! Fishing his Kent syndicate in early November, over an 18-hour period, Carl caught three amazing carp, a 39lb common and then the following morning braced his two new PB's - a 49.14 mirror and the pictured common - the one he most wanted on his syndicate.

Going with his gut instincts and knowing big winds were due, Carl fished the middle of the pond and decided to bait heavily and the results speak for themselves! Amazingly, a few days before this session, Carl caught Broken Lin from Wraybury at a whopping 45lb - so all in all an awesome period of angling! Let's hope more of the same for next season.





### Chay Pinnock catch report

Chay Pinnock had a red-letter session on Farlows lake 1 with 32 fish banked and 7 going over 30lbs. The biggest being a new P.B at 39lbs. Well done Chay and congratulations on the P.B. [www.farlowlake.co.uk](http://www.farlowlake.co.uk) . #carpfishing #carpfishinguk #angling #farlowlake #fishing #dayticketfishing





### Billy Wells catch report – Monk's Mania!

We referenced earlier that Billy Wells has enjoyed a great session on the Monks Pit syndicate, bagging himself four thirties during his session, including some cracking scalies. The largest was a 37-pounder, the biggest of three thirties that came in the first 24 hours of his stay! Like Perry Alabaster, who bagged himself one of the most-sought-after fish in the lake this morning in the form of the Special One at 38lb 12oz, Billy was using solid bags to great success. Billy filled his solid bags with Crayfish Mini Mix pellets and Secret 7 crumb and used PB wafers for hookbaits.



### James Butcher – Season ending forty

Congratulations to James Butcher on the capture of this stunning 40lb 6oz mirror from Rk Leisures Wraysbury North Lake. James told us: "I booked the Friday off work as it was the last weekend of the season on RK waters and I knew it would be busy and it wasn't fishing well too and surprise, surprise I wasn't wrong, most of the pegs, which were doing the odd fish, were taken but I was lucky enough to get a decent swim. I fished the weekend before and had caught a couple so it was a good starting point. I got the rods out to the spots and kicked back and with nothing happening in the night other than a swan waking me up it wasn't until around 10am when the left-hand rods away which resulted in this carp a new 40 I believe for Wraysbury North Lake." Well done, James. #thecell #mainlinebaits #mainlinebaitsoffical #carp #fishing #carpfishing







### James Hutton catch report

A combination of small food particles seemed to be the answer that led to the downfall of this '40 for GT UK Team angler - James Hutton. Maggot hook bait fished over maggots, crumb and liquidised corn led to an early Sunday morning call as a rod burst into life. James fished with Gardner 10' GTC rods, 15lb Mirage Platinum fluorocarbon main line and a German rig tied using 35lb Ultra Skin and a Size 6 Covert Dark Mugga hook.

#carp #gardnertackle #bigcarp #fishingtime #peche #karpfenanglen #carpfishing #carprigs #angling



### Luke Wallace catch report

Text book spring tactics... Luke Wallace made a last-minute trip overseas this week and only went and bagged himself the big 'un! Being mobile, as it is on so many occasions at this time of year was key, and armed with a pouch full or two of Manilla, and a trusty Hinge Stiff Rig... well the results speak for themselves! 55lb 12oz! #StickyBaits #Manilla



### Jim Chisnall catch report

The machine that is big Jim Chisnall has been having some fantastic success on the Essex quarry, with the Big Lin @ a whopping 43.8 fantastic condition and looking mega. Well done sir. Jim uses big leads from 4oz to 10oz to capture big carp.





28lb 12oz.



32lb 4oz.



28lb 12oz.

## Mark Quinn Owner of Aqua Lilium Clothing catch report

Mark Quinn Owner of Aqua Lilium Clothing, took some time out from his busy schedule and visited his local syndicate. Using D.T Crustazia he landed these two stunning mirrors weighing 32lb 4oz and 28lb 12oz.



32lb 4oz.



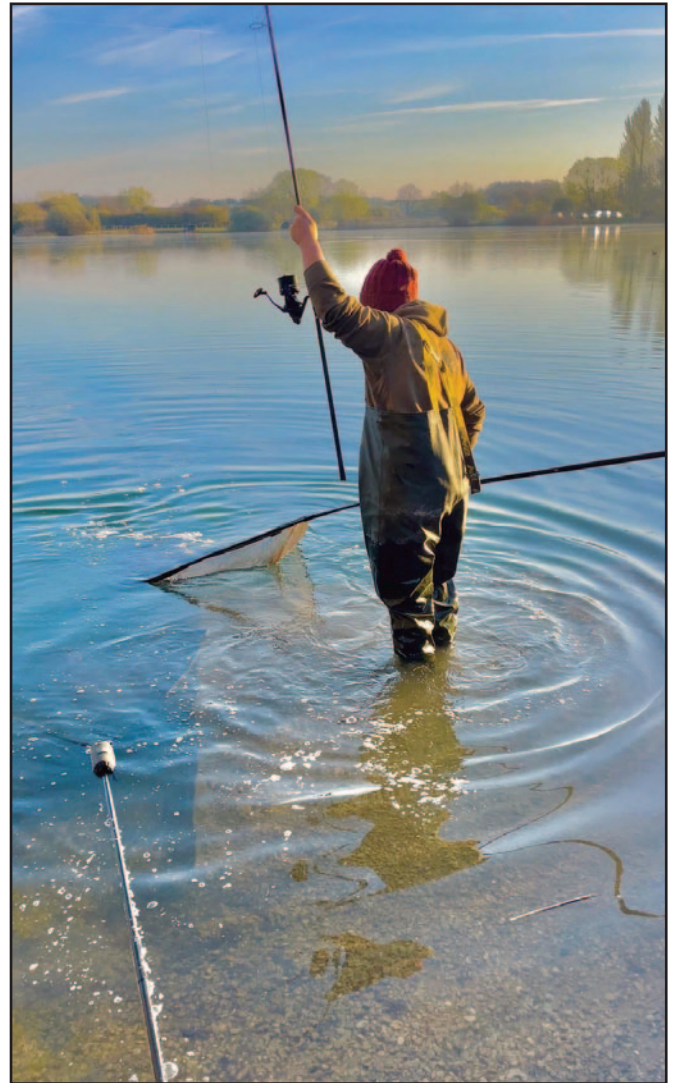
## Garry Atkin catch report

Over 50lb of Midlands common for @garryatkin. With Garry's sights firmly set on this goliath carp, he had been working ruthlessly, baiting heavily and consistently with Scopex Squid Boilies to try and gain an edge on this expansive public lake and it didn't take long until the carp were really getting their heads down. After working through some of the 'smaller' scaly residents Garry's moment had arrived, presenting him with one of the country's finest commons.

16 nights, 20 fish, 60 kilos of Scopex Squid, Topped by this beaut at just under 56lb.

#NashTackle #NashBait #ScopexSquid





### New PB for Steve Winwood

An incredible Easter bank-holiday session at Brasenose One, turning up managed to get into a decent peg on the Road Bank, two rods out at 100 yards all fishing a tight baited spot produced multiple 20s, three 30s and the highlight of the trip this 43lb mirror.



### Sam Ashman catch report – The BC buzz...

A massive well done to Sam Ashman for landing this absolute brute known as Bullnose. Sam, giving the biceps a serious workout with 54lbs of British common carp #ThinkingAnglers #DoYouEvenLiftBro #CarpFishing #KarpfenAngeln #BigCarp



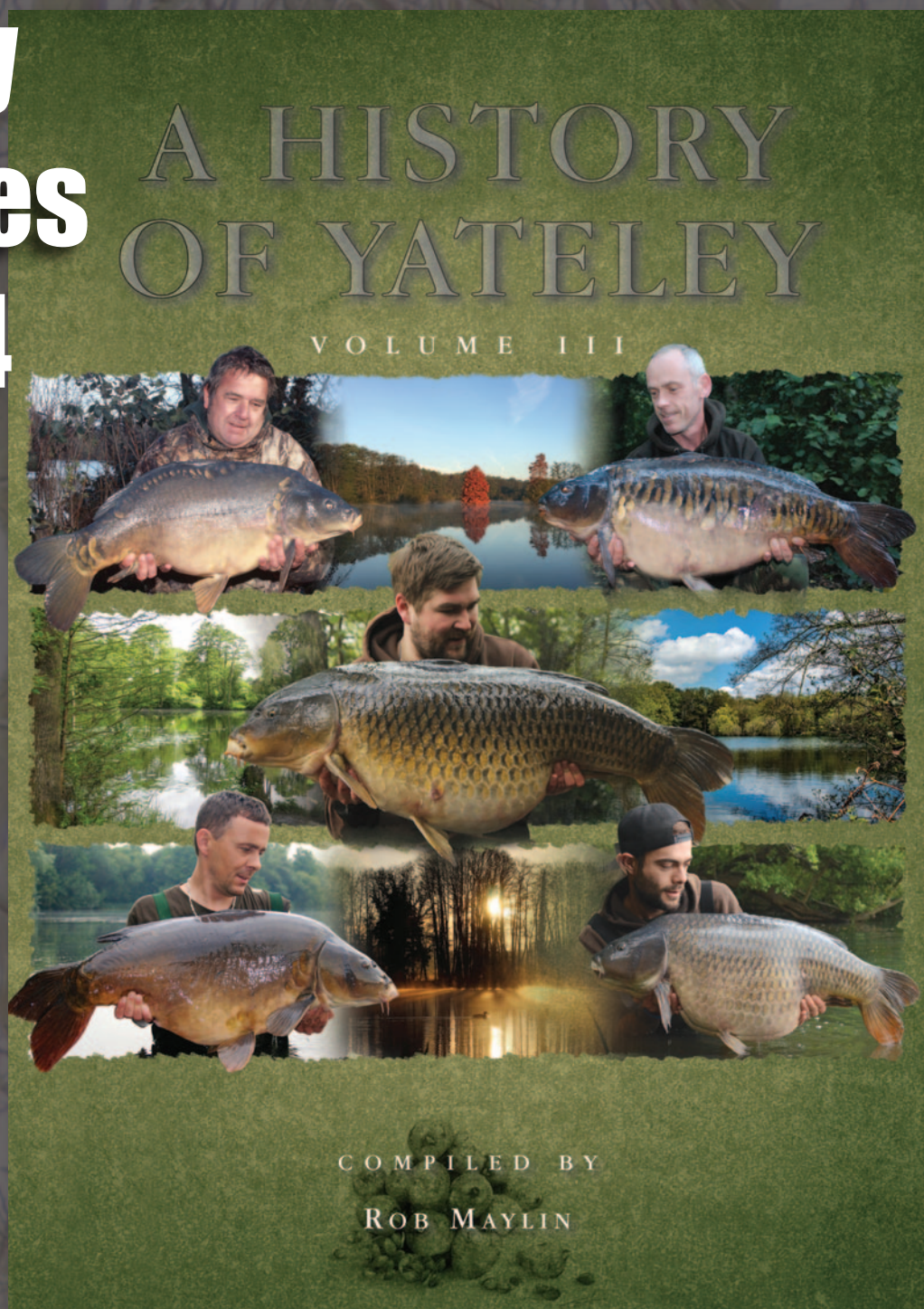
# Yateley Volumes 3 and 4

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.

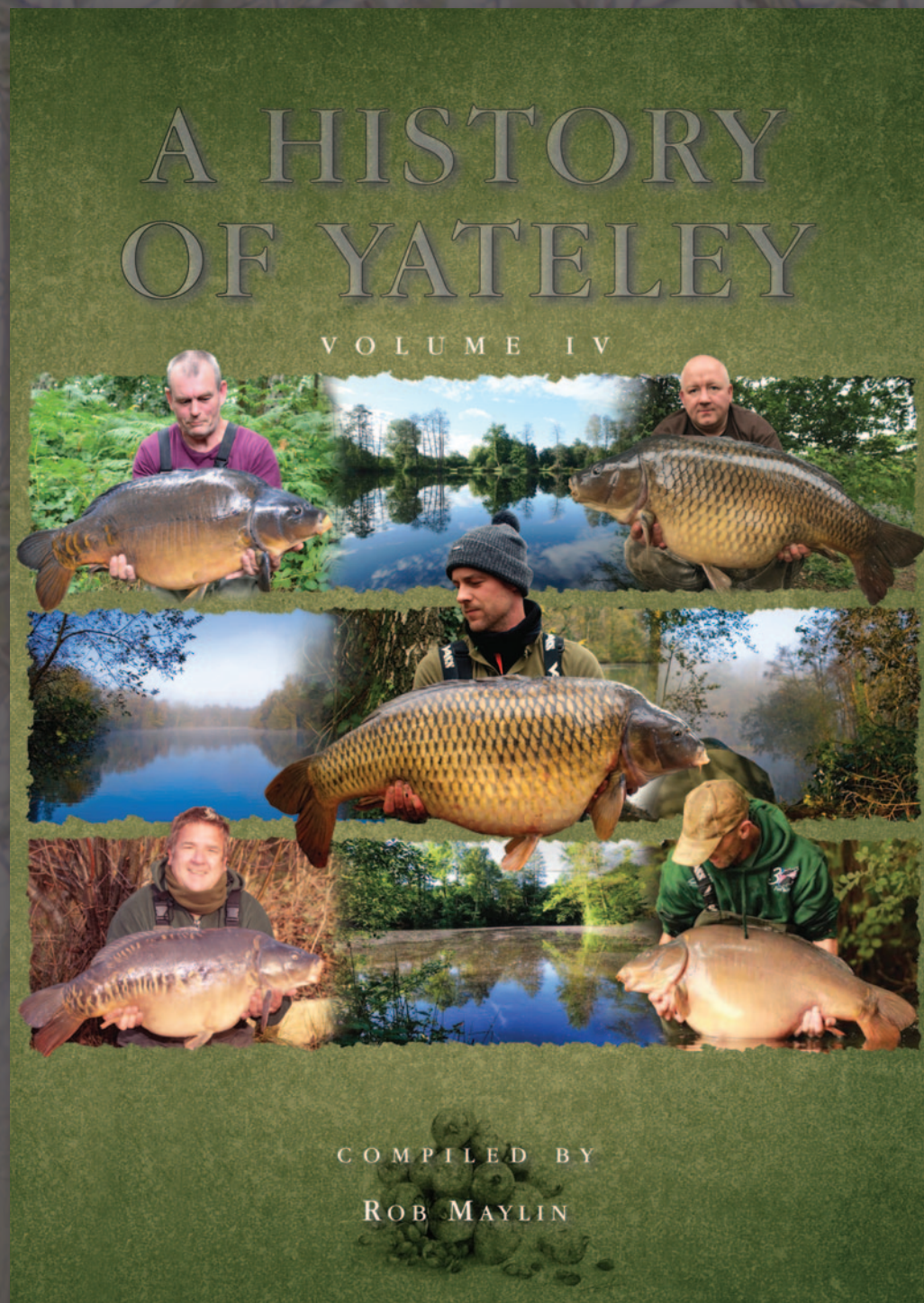
Volume 3 contains chapters on the North Lake, The Split Lake, Horseshoe and Pumphouse. The Pads Lake, Car Park, Moulsham and Mill Lane.

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!



PAY BY CARD - 01252 373658

SEE THE BOOKS AND PAY BY PAYPAL

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



## Our monthly reviews on products currently on the market

### In this issue:

- Geoff Anderson
- Nite Watches
- Dynamite Baits
- Nite Watches
- Rapala
- Selkbag
- Dynamite Baits



### Teddy – a warm acquaintance

100% recycled. Yes, our Teddy is now made from post-consumer plastic bottles and fresh hope, to help you do more with less. Thanks to Repreve® technologies we have pushed the boundaries of fabric science and eco engineering even further. If you're looking to increase the sustainability of your fishing clothing, this is the style to help you make it happen. Plastic bottles have been transformed into certifiable, traceable, high-performance yarn. The contents of your recycling bin become your new thermo-regulating midlayer. ■





## Nite Watches - Atlas selling fast!



The ATLAS is available in five different colour dial variants (Night Black, Stone Grey, Forest Green, Desert Black, Navy Blue) and housed in a traditional 316L brushed steel case with a SWISS-MADE SELLITA SW200-1 automatic movement.

The hands are dual colour mountain cut with our signature TRITIUM ILLUMINATION.

The Atlas was the Titan in Greek mythology who bore the heavens on his shoulders; today, the name is synonymous with power and endurance. NITE has spent the last twenty years supporting a constellation of exceptional men and women on adventures around the globe in pursuit of their passions.

**THE ATLAS IS MADE IN SWITZERLAND BY ROVENTA HENEX SA.**

Founded in 1959 in Bienne, they have a long tradition of developing and manufacturing watches for some of the world's most famous watch brands. More than just a geographical location, Swiss-Made means a



promise of quality and reliability.

Individually numbered, our first production release will be 100 of each colour dial variant. The first customer who orders the Night Black Atlas will receive serial number 001001.

**Will that be you?**

The Atlas stands on the shoulders of the MX10, our classic field watch supplied custom stamped as standard issue to UK Special Forces.

Now, 20 years later, we celebrate this with the Atlas, our first automatic Swiss-made watch manufactured to endure the elements.

© 2023 NITE Watches UK

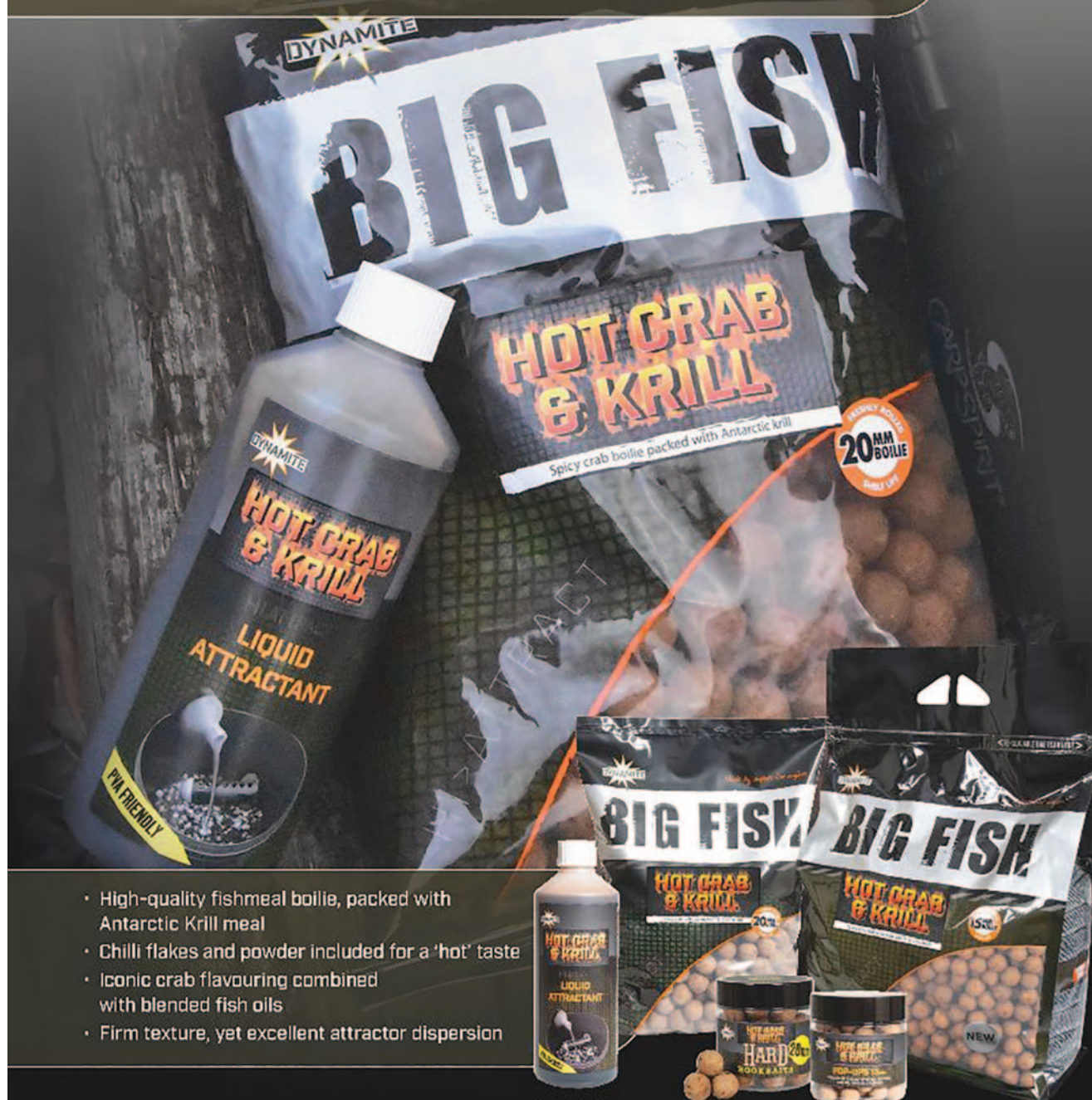
NITE Watches Unit 14 Silver Business Park, Airfield Way, Christchurch, Dorset BH23 3TA United Kingdom



**NEW**



...this year's **HOT** boilie



- High-quality fishmeal boilie, packed with Antarctic Krill meal
- Chilli flakes and powder included for a 'hot' taste
- Iconic crab flavouring combined with blended fish oils
- Firm texture, yet excellent attractor dispersion

Available in:

15mm, 20mm & 26mm 1kg bags RRP £11.45 • 15mm & 20mm 1.8kg bags RRP £14.99 • 15mm & 20mm 5kg bags RRP £39.45  
Pop-ups, Hard Hookbaits and Liquid Attractant also available

[DYNAMITEBAITS.COM](http://DYNAMITEBAITS.COM)

**Rapala**  
VMC

Tel: 0115 989 4050

[sales.uk@rapalavmc.com](mailto:sales.uk@rapalavmc.com)





## Selk'bag Lite Recycled

The Lite wearable sleeping bag is designed to be as adventurous as you are while providing maximum comfort and warmth.

Now made with 100% recycled materials, the Lite is a sleeping bag with legs adults' can wear indoors, as well as outdoors in the spring and summer seasons in the UK.



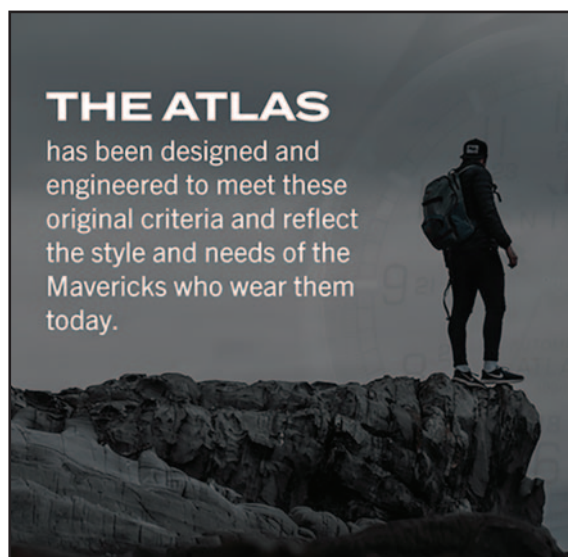
### **Interested?**

Scan the QR code or visit [www.selkbag.co.uk](http://www.selkbag.co.uk) to learn more about the Selk'bag Lite Recycled.





## Nite Watches - New Product Announcement



### THE ATLAS

has been designed and engineered to meet these original criteria and reflect the style and needs of the Mavericks who wear them today.

NITE Watches first Swiss-made Automatic watch, the Atlas, will be available on general sale on 1st May 2023. As a NITE subscriber, you will have the chance to purchase one of the first 100 manufactured. Details coming soon.

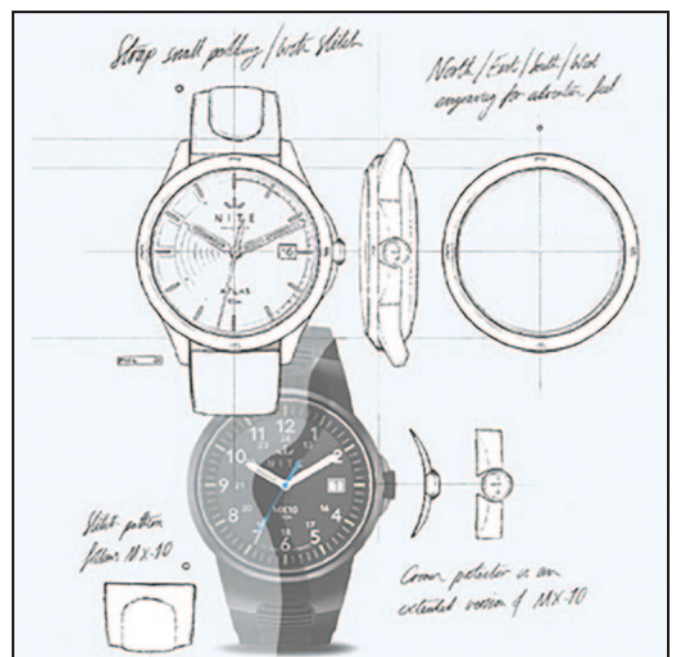
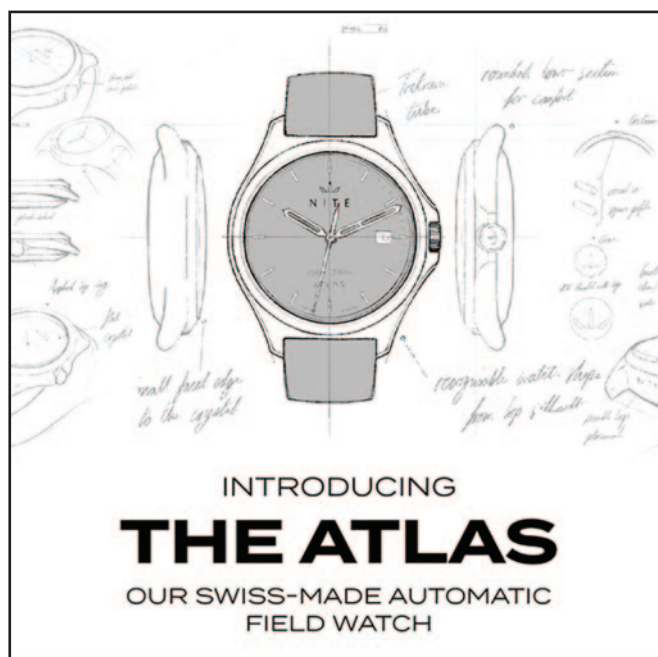
The Atlas has all the characteristics you would expect from a NITE Watch - tough, accurate and highly legible due to its tritium illumination. This is a no-nonsense, bold, robust, utilitarian field watch that could survive the demands of the military and thrive on adventures.

#### HERITAGE

Celebrating our 20 years of designing and manufacturing classic-inspired watches. The Atlas is inspired by the MX10, our original field watch, previously standard issue to the UK Special Forces.

The Atlas design is influenced by the "Dirty dozen" field watches. This name was given to a group of 12 watches worn during World War II. They were commissioned by the British Ministry of Defense (MoD) when they ordered custom-built watches that needed to be capable of performing in the field.

Twelve companies, the Dirty Dozen, would fulfil this brief, responding to strict performance specifications, including waterproofing, regulation to chronometer specification, luminous markings on the dial and robust case construction. ■





# Rapala

NEW FOR 2023...

## ...X-LITE CRANK

Shallow & Mid Runner

IN STOCK AND AVAILABLE NOW



Rapala

NEW  
2023



### X-LIGHT CRANK SHALLOW RUNNER

"THE DELICATE DELICACY."

Ultra-light construction for finesse presentations, weighted body for effortless casting. Designed for targeting any small freshwater predator species, the X-Lite Crank swims with a tight kicking action while emitting an enticing rattle. Fit for cranking, twitching, and steady retrieving, the X-Lite Crank's life-like action is perfected by detailed and textured finishes.

Strong Kicking Action • Plastic Body with Rattle • Long-Casting • For Targeting Various Small Freshwater Predator Species • Modern Finishing • 3D Holographic Eyes  
Lead-Free • Hand-Tuned & Tank-Tested • VMC® 4451 BN Treble Hooks



Model No.	Body Type	Body Length	Weight	Hook	Price
FNC503	Shallow	3.5 cm	4 g	Two No. 10	£5.00

AVU Ayu BAP Baby Aplus FT Fire Tiger GFR Gold Fluorescent Red GHSH Ghost Shiner PEL Live Perch PW Pearl White BOL Live Roach

Rapala

NEW  
2023



### X-LIGHT CRANK MID RUNNER

"THE DELICATE DELICACY."

Ultra-light construction for finesse presentations, weighted body for effortless casting. Designed for targeting any small freshwater predator species, the X-Lite Crank swims with a tight kicking action while emitting an enticing rattle. Fit for cranking, twitching, and steady retrieving, the X-Lite Crank's life-like action is perfected by detailed and textured finishes.

Strong Kicking Action • Plastic Body with Rattle • Long-Casting • For Targeting Various Small Freshwater Predator Species • Modern Finishing • 3D Holographic Eyes  
Lead-Free • Hand-Tuned & Tank-Tested • VMC® 4451 BN Treble Hooks



Model No.	Body Type	Body Length	Weight	Hook	Price
FNC503	Shallow	3.5 cm	4 g	Two No. 10	£5.00

AVU Ayu BAP Baby Aplus FT Fire Tiger GFR Gold Fluorescent Red GHSH Ghost Shiner PEL Live Perch PW Pearl White BOL Live Roach

Rapala  
VMC

Contact us for further information

Tel: 0115 9894050 - Email: [sales.uk@rapalavmc.com](mailto:sales.uk@rapalavmc.com)



## Selk'bag moves to 100% recycled materials for key products

Selk'bag has confirmed that two of its core products are now made from 100% recycled materials. The Selk'bag Original and Selk'bag Lite are two of the brand's most popular wearable sleeping bags and offer warmth, comfort and freedom of movement for outdoor and camping enthusiasts. Updated to reduce the impact of production on the planet, the Selk'bags are now made out of 100% post-consumer recycled materials, while retaining all of the performance and features for which the products are renowned.

Each Selk'bag Original and Selk'bag Lite combines a 100% recycled polyester face fabric and lining with 100% recycled hollow fibre insulation made from discarded plastic bottles (230 bottles for the Original and 153 for the Lite), making a meaningful step towards less impactful production. The main zip and other components are also fully recycled.

Like their predecessors, the updated Selk'bags offer campers and outdoor enthusiasts the very best performance features for year-round use, no matter the conditions.

Features include: No-hassle elasticated hand openings that allow wear-



ers to bring their hands in and out of the bag quickly and effortlessly; large kangaroo pockets which provide an ideal place to stash essentials; and removable booties with reinforced outsoles.

The adjustable, insulated hood offers added warmth, and the two-way double zipper makes it very easy to quickly and easily get in and out of a Selk'bag and access pockets.

It comes with a handy stuff sack to compress the bag and allow easy car-

rying and stowing when not in use.

The Unisex Selk'bag Original (£139.99) weighs 1.54kg (S) to 2.08kg (XL) and comes in a choice of four colourways – Burgundy Earth, Ash Foliage, Black Light and Ice. The Selk'bag Lite (£99.99) weighs 0.96kg (S) to 1.51kg (XL) and is available in Teal Sunlight, Foggy Blue and Black Terracotta. Both Selk'bags are available at [www.selkbag.co.uk](http://www.selkbag.co.uk), in sizes from small to extra large to fit wearers between 4'11" and 6'4" tall. ■



**Selk bag Lite Recycled Black Terracotta men front 4 booties off**



**Selk bag Lite Recycled Foggy Blue men front 1 booties on**



**Selk bag Lite Recycled Teal Sunlight women front 2 booties on**



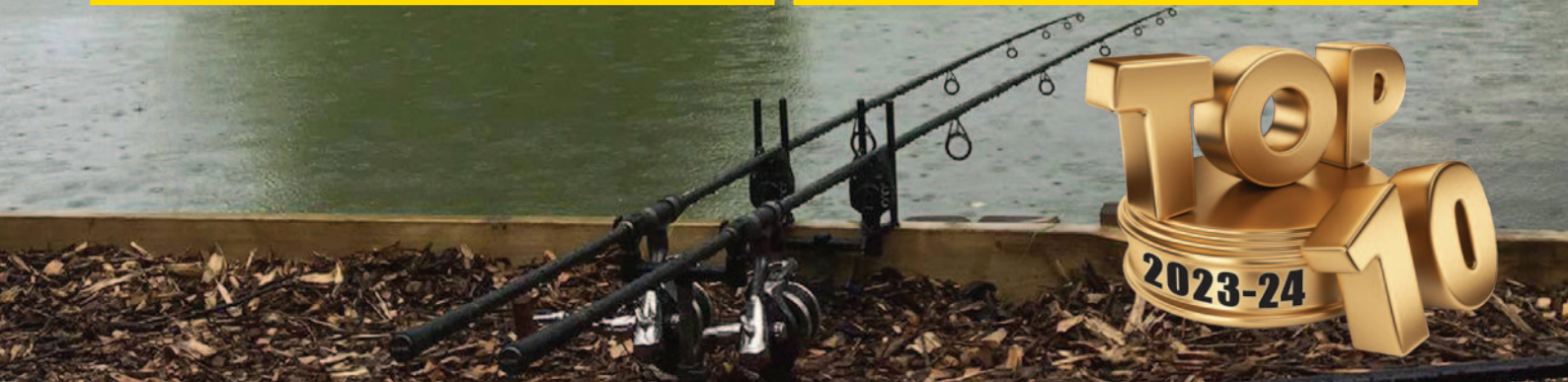
**Selk bag Original Recycled Burgundy Earth men front**





# 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



# 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.



# Custom Bait Boat Paint Jobs, Finance Option and a Free RT7 all in one Controller epp Case



At Carplounge we understand that your baitboat is more than just a tool for fishing. It's an extension of your style and personality on the water. We've received countless requests for airbrush designs for our flagship, and we're thrilled to introduce our top 10 signature designs in limited quantities now!

These designs perfectly complement the modern, sleek look of the RT7 All-in-One Baitboat and make your RT7 stand out even more from the crowd! Only 10 of each design available! Don't miss your chance to give your RT7 baitboat the ultimate personal touch! Order now and make your RT7 truly yours – before they're gone!



Get ready for the ultimate carp fishing experience with the new RT7 Bait Boat! Packed with incredible features and an amazing new handset, this fishing companion is a game-changer. Don't miss out on the opportunity to pre-order yours online today!

## **NEW: RT7 ALL-In-ONE Controller EPP CASE**

Maximum protection for your AIC • Optimal organisation of accessories

Ultra lightweight outdoor design • Integrated ventilation system

**Free of charge: For all RT7 Pre-Order orders!**

### **You already have an RT7 in Pre-Order?**

then you don't need to do anything:

we include the new AIC EPP Case free of charge with your RT7

### **Last chance: RT7 Pre-Order Deals**

Over 95% pre-ordered > be quick now and order one of the last RT7 with Pre-Order discount and get the new AIC Case for free.

Upgrade your fishing game with these custom baitboats! How would you design yours?

<https://www.facebook.com/carplounge/videos/238072571947033>



**Exclusive**



# **I'm Not Just Famous For Rainbow Any More, Son!**

**Featuring Lee Mozza Morris**



**O**ne night on a southern syndicate water was all Lee 'Mozza' Morris needed to catch the largest fully scaled mirror in the country! Dark in colour, littered with apple-slice scales and weighing in at a massive 60lb 5oz, this colossal beast has to be one of the best-looking carp the UK has to offer.

"There are carp and then there is this carp," a jubilant Lee 'Mozza' Morris told us earlier this morning, still absolutely buzzing from one of the finest and most memorable moments of his angling life.

"I can't believe it. One night and done!"

Mozza actually kicked off his first session on the water with a 32-pounder, so it was clear he was well on the fish, having baited an area with 20 spods of chopped worms and casters that'd he covered and mixed in Insect Meal powder.

Over the top, he offered a 10mm PB pop-up tipped with maggots inside a solid bag of Crayfish Mini Mix pellets and a mixture of squats and Insect Meal powder, the latter absorbing the moisture of the squats to creature the

perfect consistency and texture for a solid bag.

"As I was playing the fish, I was trying to get my waders and GoPro on at the same time! Then as I flicked my head torch on, I could see a massive 60lb fully scaled mirror in the gin-clear water. The rest is a bit of a blur, to be honest.

"The owner was fishing next to me, so it was amazing to share the moment with him and even more amazing to see the scales pass the

60lb mark to settle on 60lb 5oz. I still can't believe it!

"I'm not just famous for Rainbow any more, son!"

#dnabaits #redefiningquality #insectmeal #carp #carpfishing #carpangling #carplife #carpwatch #carpangler #fishing #angling #carpy #thatscarpy #karpervissen #karpervisser #karpfenangler #karpfenangeln #carphunter #carpyshots #carpyscenes #carpyness #carpyporn #bigfish #commoncarp ■





**Exclusive**

# Short Session Winter Success

By Timothy Thornton





**S**o in January 2023 I decided to give a big local reservoir a go over the winter period. I do go carp fishing in winter but much prefer the Spring, Summer and Autumn months like most anglers. I tend to work mainly in winter and fish the rest of the year. But for those who do venture out in winter, the conditions can be cruel and a challenging, but the rewards high.

I set myself a mini challenge which involved day sessions only on a day only venue. My venue of choice was Durleigh reservoir in Somerset. This is a day ticket venue you can book online through Wessex water. My aim was just to do a few day sessions and put a few carp on the bank that I wouldn't normally have caught had I just stayed at home.

My first session was in January and it was a pretty cold day. I opted to fish a dam end swim which I knew did a few fish this time of year. It was deep, sheltered and had artificial snags in the form of a large valve tower which was surrounded by buoys and rope.

Tactics were three rods on a spot at 100+ yards range towards the valve tower. I put a light scattering of bait out consisting of DNA baits Bug 18mm and crumbed boilie, Bug 4mm pellets and corn. All soaked in Bug hydro spod syrup.

Over this I fished 18mm Bug corker wafers tipped off with half a pink Bug Half Tone dumbbell wafer. Only a few medium spombs so as to just attract but not fill up any passing feeding fish.

At around midday, the warmest part of the day I had a couple of single bleep liners telling me there was activity in the area and hopefully carp. A short time after this another bleep on my middle rod but this time the line tightened indicating fish on.

I lifted into the fish and put a good bend in the rod to set the hook properly due to the range and the fish surfaced quite a way out. The water was as cold as ice and I gradually coaxed the carp all the way back to the net with steady pressure.

On the scales this one went 25.08 and it was a beautiful pristine zip linear both sides.

A passing angler Mick who reg-











**Martin Lillywhite 28lb 3oz.**





ularly fishes the res. did the honours with the photography.

This was the only bite of the day and I saw no shows but it proved I'd got location spot on. I headed home down the M5 to East Devon a happy man.

It was a week or two before I could return to the big res. My aim was one day per week and with having to pre book to get the swim I felt gave me the best chance with no time spend on the water in between it wasn't easy. The temperatures dropped further and I had a couple of very cold blanks with no carp shows seen. Indeed, on one occasion I dipped my net in the tank prior to fishing and it froze immediately. I think you get the picture.

Thankfully on one occasion I booked my chosen swim it coincided with some warmer south westerlies hacking into the dam. I'd put a nice spread of boilies at 120 yards and fished three rods. I'd had nothing all day so mid-afternoon made some changes and within ten minutes of recasting my left rod at 120 yards was away.

Just one bleep typically and a slight tightening of the line again. The fight was similar to the previous one at range with the carp surfacing some 100 yards out and a slow steady no dramas fight. My mate Martin Lillywhite who'd joined me on a couple of sessions did the honours with the net and a lovely 23.08 common slipped over the net cord.

Feeding spells are usually short so I quickly smashed the rod back into the zone and we dealt with the 23 afterwards in slow time.

After about an hour the left rod was away again. One bleep again and the line tightened. I hit into this one and it felt heavier and I told Martin I suspected it was a bigger fish.

There was a slow heavy battle back to the net and a few heavy lunges near the net but Martin did the honours first time. This one was a lovely scale mirror. Half lin on one side and full lin on the other. It went 27.08 and I was well pleased. Martin captured some great images in the photography.

The following week we both decided to share a swim and I wanted Martin to see some success having shared the capture of the previous two fish with him and as I'd invited









**27lb 8oz mirror.**

him to the venue.

Tactics were similar and about mid-morning one of Martins rods was away. Again, a classic single bleep. The fight was heavy all the way and after some deep lunges I netted a lovely long common for Martin. I could tell it was decent as soon as it went in the net. On the scales it went 28.03.

A cracking fish and I was well pleased for him. After a few photographs she swam slowly but confidently back into the res.

Looking back, we achieved our targets of landing a few decent carp in shorter day sessions proving a little effort can equal some just rewards and short day session success. Putting a few winter/early spring carp on the bank you wouldn't normally catch unless you ventured out in the cold, wind and rain.

I used Carp tackle online size 4 scorpion crank hook IO2 D rigs on my sessions. ■





# Oak Lakes Fisheries

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



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



First catch this season for Gary Pearman at 21lbs 8oz using his old faithful A M Baits.



Another couple of wake up calls for Gary Pearman just before first light using his faithful A M Baits. Great looking commons at 15lbs 2oz .



Levi, son of Oak Lakes owner Paul landed this beauty at 34lbs 10oz.



George Denner had this stunner at the weekend weighing exactly 31lbs. Great angling George.



Getting bigger! Todays catch at 29lbs 6oz was caught down the gully on the day ticket lake by Danny.



Member Beansie fishing day ticket lake for a change has today landed this cracker at 23lbs 12oz.



Stunning 28lbs common caught mid lake swim on day ticket water Oak Lake. Happy angler braving this weather. Well done.



Ricky Collett catches another stunner this 35lbs common that the members call The Long Common.



Gary Pearman was planning to eat cold chinese for breakfast but instead had a nice surprise landing this 17lbs carp on his old faithful AM B

## 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 Special One

By Perry Alabaster

**A**fter spending most of the Monday listening to the wind howling as I was working, I couldn't resist ringing the Monks bailiff, Darren, to ask if I could bring my scheduled Tuesday and Wednesday session forward a day this week.

Once he'd agreed, I rushed home to load my gear and got to the lake just in time to get the rods out before dark. The wind was still blowing a hoolie and with my two first-choice swims already occupied, I decided to set up in the teeth of a strong south-westerly. I eventually got the rods out after running up and down the bank chasing rod sleeves, landing-net bags, etc. that were flying around, but







I still felt confident using the Crayfish wafers in solid bags of Crayfish Mini Mix pellets, a tactic that's worked well for me in recent weeks.

Apart from feeling relieved the tree I was camped under hadn't fallen on my head as I woke up on Tuesday morning, my main feeling was that of disappointment that the night hadn't produced a bite. I was just contemplating a swim move when my right-hand rod rattled off! As I played the fish towards the bank, I thought it was probably a little stockie, but at least it'd be a blank-saver. It really didn't fight much until it got within a few rod-lengths of the bank, when all hell broke loose and I battled with the fish under my rod tips for what felt like an eternity! Eventually I landed it and weighed it 38lb 12oz. That would do nicely! I still hadn't realised what fish it was until my mate, Mark, who was just leaving, started taking photos. It was a much-sought-after Monks resident known as the Special One.

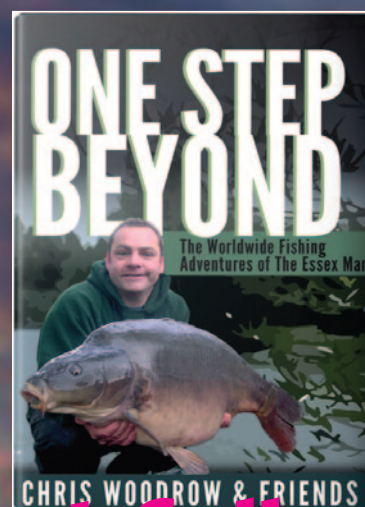
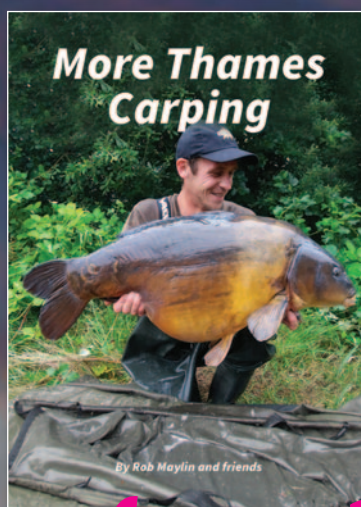
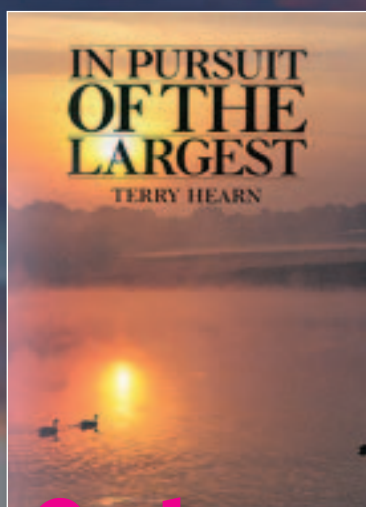
I'd seen this carp on the bank a couple of times since returning to Monks in 2021 and it's been right up the top of my most-wanted list since I first set my eyes on it. What a creature! Needless to say, I didn't end up moving swims.

This is not the first time the Special One has given itself up to DNA products, having also been caught by Steve Haylett at 36lb 2oz on Secret 7 back in the summer of 2021. ■

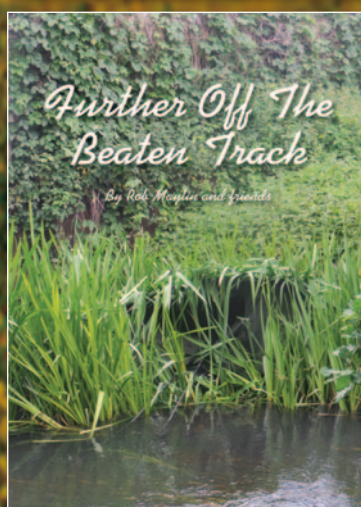
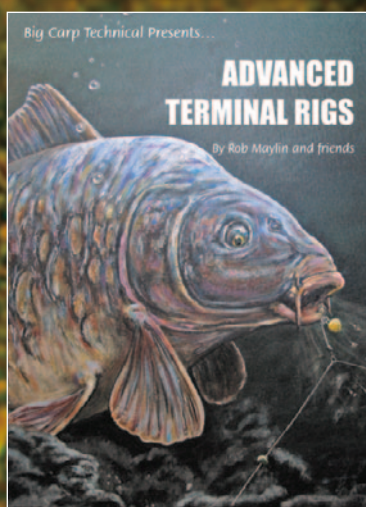
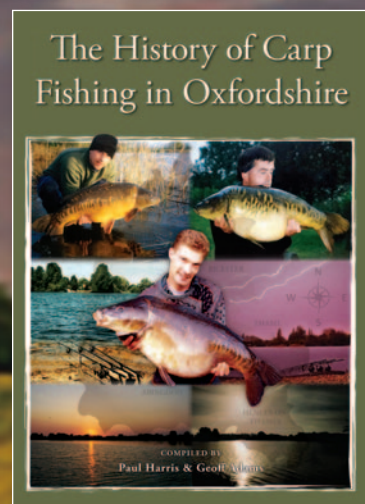
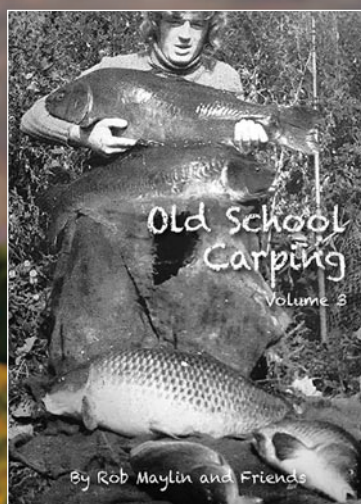




# SPRING INT



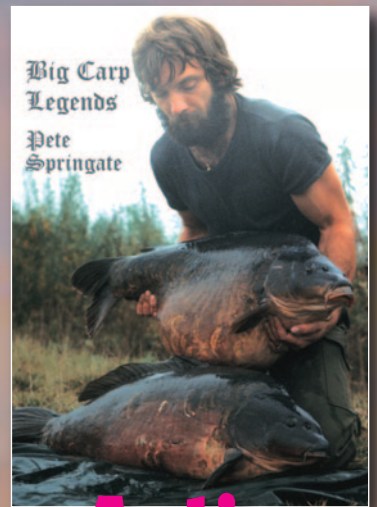
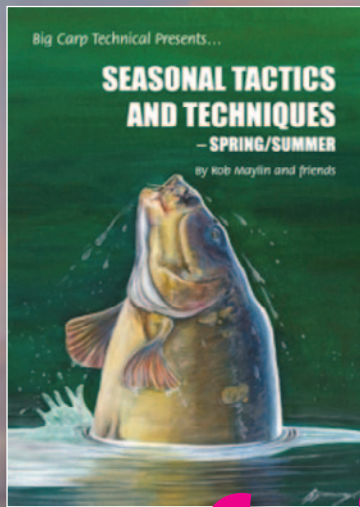
Order one of our Best Sellers and



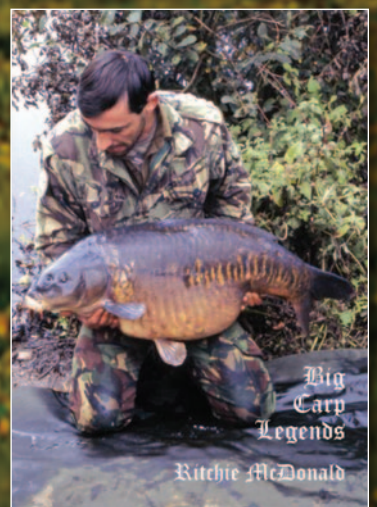
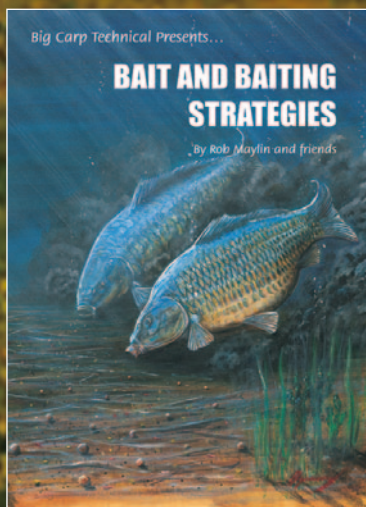
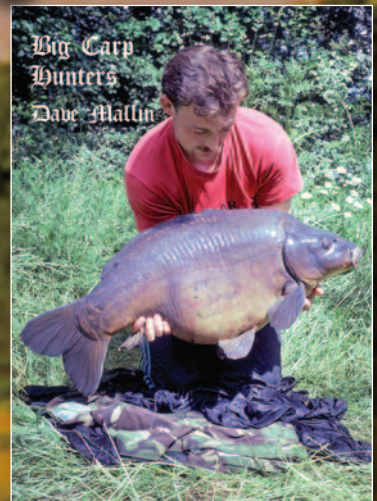
NEW BOOKS [www.bigcarpma](http://www.bigcarpma)  
NEW AND OLD BOOKS: [www.ebay](http://www.ebay)



# TO ACTION



get ready for some Spring Action



[gazine.co.uk/online-shop.html](http://gazine.co.uk/online-shop.html)  
[.co.uk/usr/rarecarpbooksunlimited](http://.co.uk/usr/rarecarpbooksunlimited)



**Exclusive**

# Four Seasons

Part 1 by Mark and Emma Rose





**O**ur new series in May, sees the start of a new set of articles that will follow 'Obsession Carp's' travels, trials and tribulations throughout 2023, albeit starting in a familiar way of the previous series, 'The Winter Diary'. The first piece, due to the ticket running until the end of February.

With the madness of Christmas fast approaching and with any chance of a final trip of 2022 quashed, due to the cold snap that had hit the country, with lakes freezing pretty much all over the UK. It was 2023, before we finally managed to get back down to 'Festival'.

Anyone that knows me, would know that almost four weeks of no bank time would be torture, as normally as soon as I'm back home and had a soak in the bath and a good night's sleep. I'm itching to get back out onto the bank again, even if my body is telling me otherwise...

I always feel that during Winter, getting out consistently, not only helps you keep in touch with what's going on. But the more time you



spend outside in the varying temperatures the more your body adapts to the conditions that lay ahead.

So with almost four weeks of central heating and a cold few days ahead of us, we were certainly going to feel it more than normal.

The turn of the year never bodes well for me and there's a running joke

between us, family and friends that I shouldn't bother fishing, until April as I never seem to catch. Emma on the other hand tends to get off to a flyer. I was hopeful, however, that after the success of our last trip, I might be able to put this almost 'curse like scenario' to rest.

The first trip of 2023, would see us







return to our previous swims Peg 3 and 4. This wasn't down to the success from my 'Birthday' trip, (like most people will think) but more to do with the dates we could fish and the

swims that were available when we booked

Emma decided to stick to Peg 4 leaving me Peg 3 for the trip. I have to admit I was a little envious of Emma,

as Peg 4 has a lot more open water and with the fact the water temps had dropped massively recently. It definitely held more options for areas, where the fish could hold up and find sanctuary, especially with the peg having a lovely little spot, that out of respect for the other anglers that fish it, I won't disclose.

With 3 nights ahead of us and a mixed bag of weather forecast, from two nights of heavy frost to 24 hours of strong wind and rain, it was certainly going to be an interesting one and to be fair, my beliefs were hard going. But you can't catch them at home, I suppose.

With our usual first day routine adhered to and light starting to fade, the rods were cast out on the spots in the hope of starting the year off in style.

I, as per usual opted for two on the bottom using 'Bait Guru's' High Class 'Salamino' coated in 'Mexi - Can' Halo with 'Carp Craze' PVA Products Mesh Bags, but utilizing 'Salamino'





8mm Pellets this time. On my 3rd rod, I used a Bait Guru 'Salamino' Dumb-bell Wafter, along with a four bait Stringer - A tactic that seems to have been almost forgotten, but over the years has tripped up so many fish.

Emma's choice was pretty much the same except for one rod on a Bait Guru 'Jungle' High Class with an 'Essential Fruit' Orange Tipper and a matching 'Carp Craze' Pva Mesh Bag of Pellet and Stick Mix coated in Liquid Food.

By 6pm, with no sightings and frost already forming, it certainly felt like it was going to be a long night. When we finally turned in for the night, the "give a shout if you need a hand during the night" wasn't said with any real conviction!

As the morning mist slowly burned away from over the surface of the lake, those first night doubts had been proven right and as Emma emerged from her bivvy with the same response of not a single bleep, it certainly looked like we were up against it.



After a few much needed coffees to warm the bones, we both decided to redo the rods as the weather was certainly on the change. With the wind already picking up, we wanted to get them on the spots perfectly, so that when the 40mph plus gusts hit we

were fishing efficiently.

With being so busy in between trips, from the tail end of 2022, my rig box was definitely looking a little depleted and sorry for itself. A state I don't normally allow it to get into... So whilst watching the water I set







about putting it right and began tying a few up.

Is it just me or regardless of how many years you've been tying rigs, you have days where it goes to perfection and then others where your all 'fingers and thumbs' and even the simplest of knots tests your patience. This was certainly going to be one of those days!

The day seemed to pass by in a blink of an eye and with the predicted gusts still not with us, we quickly refreshed the rods in the last of the evening's fading light, sat back to cook dinner, cold beer in hand to watch the water.

By 9pm and still not a single sighting, let alone indication, the earlier

predicted wind and rain was now beginning to pick up speed. I have to say the mood was somewhat a somber one, but still ever the optimist. I was still hopeful we could bag at least one between us before the end of the trip.

The night was certainly a sleepless one, with the storm that on more than one occasion, looking like it might take my bivvy out. But luckily by morning everything had survived....

With still nothing between us and the gusts of wind only subsiding a little, we decided to redo the rods about mid day, leaving them in situ for the morning.

However, just after half past 10, with a bacon buttie and hot coffee in

hand, our silence was about to be shattered, by Emma's right hand rod going into overdrive (I swear they know when you've just made some hot goodies to warm and fill the belly). But without waffling on, let's get back to the important bit of Emma into a fish (regardless of wishing I could hide her moment of glory).

To start with Emma wasn't sure it was even a Carp, but with the fish now half way across that initial thought was about to change. With the battle now in full flow and the fish doing everything in its power to not become 'famous', Emma definitely had to be at the top of her game, so as not to lose it, as it decided to make a big kite to the right, trying to get into





LIMITED EDITION • SIGNED AND NUMBERED

# *Legendary Carp Paintings*



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



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









the reed beds down the far margin.

After a few tense moments but with Emma certainly starting to gain the upper hand, we were met with the surface of the water being broken by a lovely pale flank, with what looked to be a half decent fish.

A few minutes later I was yet again finding myself netting the first fish of the year for Emma. Oh my curse of a New Year....

Leaving the fish to rest in the net whilst we got everything ready, this was looking to certainly be a good start with it only being the 4th of January.

With the fish in the sling and on the scales, the needle settled finally on 25lb 10oz. Muttering a little sarcastic "Well done" after the photos and fish returned, Emma cast the rod straight back out on the spot with a Bait Guru 'Salamino' High Class Hookbait, coated in the 'Spice Fusion' Booster, again with a 'Carp Craze' Wide Mesh

Bag of 8mm 'Salamino' Pellet.

Unbeknown to me, the previous day Emma had made a slight change in her baiting choice. The same strategy that proved to be the Mirrors downfall. Sneaky!...

With my rods yet again seemingly in their own winter slumber, that sort of matched the fishing so far, I soon found myself hoping, praying and with everything crossed going into our final night.

The morning was soon upon us and with yet again not a single bleep between us it was time to pack up, as we had to be off early due to my peg being booked.

With the cars now loaded and the journey home begun, my thoughts turned yet again to my New Year curse and the grief I was going to get from it, especially with a very happy lady in the car in front albeit, well deserved.

Our next session couldn't come

soon enough from my point of view. Unfortunately, it wouldn't be until the second week of February that we would find ourselves heading back towards Glastonbury.....

On arrival, the conditions were looking far from ideal with no breeze, bright blue skies and a pressure of 1037mbar.

This trip would see us back in Pegs 8 and 9, albeit after some serious car troubles that delayed the trip and ruffled a few feathers. Luckily, the office was very understanding and as we kept the venue informed on a daily basis, they said that there were no issues as we had already pre booked the swims and these would be kept open for us. (Trust me when I say I'd rather have been fishing, than waiting for a call from the mechanic to say the car was ready and facing the horrendous bill we received in exchange).

Anyway with that all behind us and the kit barrowed down, we quickly got everything set up in our normal fashion. We decided to get the rods out a little earlier than normal on the first day, partly because we had a new toy to trial out. The 'Cobb Premier Air BBO', is a product we'd been looking at for some years, but now finally decided to take the plunge. Being we hadn't yet managed a trial run, we wanted to cook in daylight hours just to make things a little easier.

With Emma's rods cast out perfectly first time and on her chosen spots in Peg 8, over in Peg 9, I on the other hand was, shall we say, having one of those starts you'd rather forget, with multiple casts on every spot to get them right.

Luckily usually this only happens once in a blue moon, and with them finally on their spots and me settling down to watch the water, with a











much needed cold one, I have to say I was fairly sure after thrashing the water to a pulp it would have done me no favours at all, in putting my New Year curse to bed.

Only 15 minutes later I was to be proven wrong. Not only was my rod away, but I was attached to what I already knew was my first 2023, Carp. To say this one was not happy would

be an understatement, as it powered through the depths like a submarine going from left to right like a madman. With nerves not helping and some banter from Emma putting even more pressure on, I was relieved when the net was finally slid under a stunning Mirror of 23lb 8oz.

Bait Guru's 'Salamino' Dumbbell Wafters in 'Mexi-Can' Halo, with Carp

Craze PVA Products 'Wide Mesh Bag' with a little extra Liquid Food, doing the business yet again.

Rig of choice being, my take, on a simple German Rig with a Terminal Tackle UK 'Snag Curve' Hook. These hooks have to be one of my favourites out there, along with their 'Advanced Wide Gape'. Not only being ultra sharp, straight out of the pack, but





these products have never let me down since being launched.

With the rod rewrapped and back out on the spot, I could honestly say I was on 'Cloud 9' with the weight of the curse, finally lifted!

With the lasagne smelling divine in the 'Cobb' it was nice to just sit back, chill and watch the world go by, especially with the stress of the previous few days. With dinner, finally cooked and to perfection, may I add, it was a perfect end to an almost perfect day.

By 9pm and with tiredness setting in for Emma, we went our separate ways. I sat in my doorway, making a coffee, looking for any signs. But with the lake flat calm and the temperature at around 3 degrees, I have to say I was not feeling too hopeful, as most of the bites we'd had over Winter, had come during the daylight hours.

By first light my thoughts had been proven right and being met with a cloudy but muggy flat calm start, did nothing to dispel that theory. But just as we were finishing our crumpets and butter, along with a lovely hot coffee, my middle rod was definitely out to prove me wrong, yet again.

This was a completely different

battle to the day before and after a few minutes a lovely looking Common, just shy of the 20lb mark, was resting in my net.

Regardless of size, two fish before April for me is unheard of, lol, but more importantly being 2 nil up, gave me bragging rights, something that I was later going to regret.

My ever faithful Bait Guru 'Salamino' High Class with 'Mexi - Can' Halo combined with a scattering of Mk2 boilies being this Commons downfall.

With the day passing quickly and with conditions pretty much the same as the day before, it wasn't long before we found ourselves lighting the Cobb, yet again. This time for a bank made Cauliflower Broccoli Cheese.

The 'Cobb', certainly brings a whole new dimension to bankside eating. It's so nice eating hearty meals even more so with the winter conditions. But as for your waistline, that could be another story, especially with having a pizza stone and being able to make homemade chippies. This could be dangerous!

With the food demolished and

washed down with a lovely bottle of Tribute we sat back watching the stars in the sky shine brighter. Lovely to see, but when you know it's going to make it colder, not so much fun.

After another silent night, we watched as the early morning mist lifted away under the low winter sunrise, whilst the kettle worked in over-drive pretty much on non stop duties. At this point Emma's right hand bobbin gave the ever so smallest of lifts and then, almost implanted itself into the underside of the rod.

With Emma on her rod in seconds, I was being the ever helpful husband, saying things like "don't bump it off now...", etc. Not so sure she found it as funny as I did, mind you...

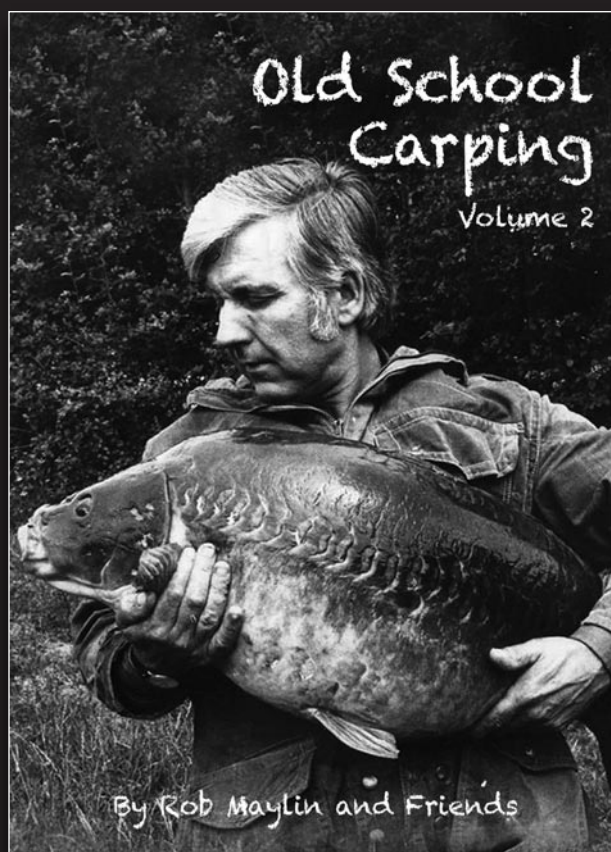
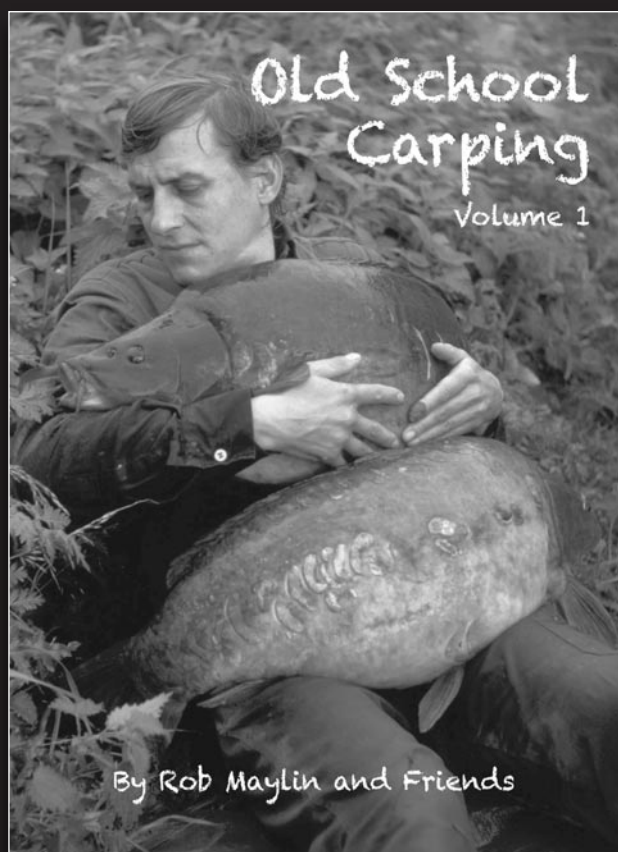
However, the culprit was soon in the net and peering over, this was certainly the biggest of the trip so far. Oh dear, I was going to get some stick!

With weighing and photography duties done and the fish safely returned, Emma was certainly over the moon, as to not be on a blank. Even more so, was the fact that this lovely 27lb 6oz Mirror was caught on one of her concoctions, of a Bait Guru 'Jungle' High Class Hookbait tipped





# OLD SCHOOL CARPING SERIES



01252 373658  
[www.bigcarpmagazine.co.uk](http://www.bigcarpmagazine.co.uk)





with an 'Essential Fruit' Orange Corn Tipper, along with a Carp Craze Pva 'Wide Mesh Bag' of 'Jungle' Stick Mix and 2mm Pellets soaked in matching Liquid Food.

With the scores now at 2 - 1 and getting a bit close for comfort, I was in

a state of ecstasy and shock when just 20 minutes after Emma had returned her capture, my middle rod jumped into life. The look on Emma's face said it all and I had to admit the smugness was back, as Emma obliged on netting duties, after

another short but strange battle where the fish only seemed to wake up halfway through and then gave me hell.

On the scales another stunning 'Festival' Mirror of 22lb, on the nose, was my prize. But more importantly





increased my lead. (who said a friendly bit of competition never hurts. Lol) Not surprising though, my normal tactics of Bait Guru 'Salamino' High Class yet again proving how exceptional this bait really is.

At 12pm, we decided to reel in and go have a quick freshen up at the on site shower. What a difference it makes to feel half human again!

On returning to our swims, we quickly set about getting the rods back out with the plan of leaving them in situ until the following day unless something told us otherwise.

The plan didn't last long, as just after 3pm, my same rod as before, employing the same tactics was away again. This one put up a completely different battle, trying to get under the overhanging trees. But luckily all went to plan and I soon found myself netting another 26lb 6oz Mirror.

With the Carp safely back in its watery home and some very tasteful banter sent Emma's way, (please no pity for her, the grief I got from the January session was inexcusable) I quickly rewrapped and got the rod back out with another small scattering of Bait Guru 'Mk2' over the top.

With the rest of the day and night following the same vein as the previous couple, we awoke after a cold but good night's kip to exchange pleasantries, since it was now 'Valentine's'.

With a heartwarming breakfast of instant pot porridge (what more could a girl wish for on Valentine's Day) we were soon to be interrupted, by Emma's middle rod, deciding that Valentine's should start with something a little more special than porridge. My initial thoughts were fantastic followed by, "Uh Oh! here we go again. She's on the comeback!" Oh yes, you guessed it, a....!

Again another strange battle ensued and at one point, thinking that it was a Cat, as well as a missed netting by me ( I honestly wasn't trying to bump it off) another Common Carp was lying in wait.

With the needle settling on 21lb 10oz, Emma's previous concoction had done it again, albeit with a Pink 'Essential Fruit' Corn Tipper, being the only change.

With two of the three of Emma's rods now in, we decided for her to pull in her final one so that I could go



down to the car to grab some supplies. On my return just 5 minutes later I found Emma rummaging through my bait supply, emerging with a tub of Bait Guru 13mm 'Orange Ultras'.

The tinkerer was back. She just can't help herself. Some things never change!

I'd be a millionaire the amount of times I've heard her say, "This session I'm going to stick to the same bait!", only to meet back after redoing rods, to later get a beep and hear the words, "That's on my little experiment" is mind boggling. But all joking aside, she seems to make it work and by mid afternoon this was to come true, when the rod she had changed

over to a hand tied Spinner Rig, incorporating the never failing Terminal Tackle UK hook and components together with the Orange Bait Guru Ultra was away.

I'm not sure this one initially knew that it had taken the hook, as it was pretty much - 'Delkim sound. Bobbin. Lift and Net!'

Once again, weighing another Mirror Carp of just under 21lb, it was now ready for his photograph.

With only 24 hours to go, Emma was homing in on my lead. My hopes of victory, shrinking fast.

With a lovely Valentine's home-made Curry, made using the Wok on the Cobb devoured, and night drawing in fast it was time to say "Good-







night".

With the final morning soon upon us, pack down was in full flow. However, just after 7am I was horrified to hear the so familiar, but annoying sound of Emma's alarm in full flow.

With my fingers crossed praying and jokingly saying, it was probably a Tench. Karma was about to bite, when a Mirror broke the surface of the water and soon, was in the bottom of the net. (I'm not sure who was sulking more, me or the Carp)

With me on photography duties, this stunning fish of 21lb 20z was lifted up by Emma, who had the biggest smile on her face, only to find out that her tinkering had done it again. This time being a Bait Guru 15mm 'Essential Fruit' Yellow Pop Up and Carp Craze PVA Wide Mesh Bag of Jungle Stick Mix and 2mm Pellet, providing the downfall.

Luckily for me, that turned out to be the final fish of the trip and with the cars loaded, we couldn't be disappointed.

Ending on a final tally of 7 x 20lb

plus and one just under, between us, in February, with conditions somewhat tricky. What more can I say..... Result!

We set off on our journey home. The turnaround was going to be a nightmare, as with the 'Winter' Ticket running out, we were returning just a few days later, to what would be our final trip of the ticket.

Our final 'Winter' trip would see us in Pegs 10 and 11, with Emma opting for 10. Time wouldn't be on our side, with not being able to get in the pegs till after 4pm, but we soon found ourselves all set up with the rods on the spots.

With the light dwindling and temperature feeling a lot colder than forecast, from the windchill, as usual I have to say I wasn't expecting a huge amount from this trip. But it was still nice to be out on the bank again.

The first night was as expected and passed without as much as a single bleep.

First light brought a flat calm lake, bright skies and a bitterly cold wind. I

was expecting a similar story from Emma who was, although in the swim next to me was stationed further up the lake and when she finally woke from her slumber this was confirmed over the Walkie Talkie.

These are a valuable part of our kit when fishing further apart, especially during the hours of darkness. Contemplating our next terms of strategy, we both decided to redo the rods around mid day.

The day seemed to drag on, which wasn't helped by the lack of action and when midday finally came, the rods went back out refreshed with the same tactics as the night before.

We decided not to put any freebies over 4 of our 6 spots, due to lack of indications of any fish in the area, anything to try and snatch even one bite.

Unfortunately the night passed motionless. Then just before 8, I was interrupted by the words "I've got one!" What? Where? Thank god for the Walkie Talkie! I quickly pulled my rods in to go up and lend a hand with





the weighing and pics....

Peering into the net I could see that this fish was not going to break any records but Emma's smile said it all. She hadn't blanked, but more importantly was 1 nil up, yet again, putting the pressure on poor old muggins here.

With the pictures taken and the offender safely back where it belongs, we had a quick catch up, as well as ye olde faithful caffeine intake, which I

made sure Emma prepared, in an attempt to distract her, whilst I turned on my detective mode... "So what concoction has Emma caught on this time? Aaah, what else should I have expected! Bait Guru 'Jungle' High Class with an Orange Tipper, Carp Craze PVA Mesh Bag with Stick and 2mm Pellet in Liquid Food".

On returning back to my swim and getting the rods out, I decided to stick to my preferred option, Bait Guru's

'Salamino'. OK, OK! I have to admit, one rod had a quick rig change and indeed it incorporated an 'Essential Fruit' Tipper, albeit Pink placed perfectly onto a 'Salamino' High Class - I could only try.

As the day wore on and with the temperature the only thing biting, my feelings were certainly hedging, to the fact that my New Year curse was heading back with a vengeance. Why break a habit of a lifetime I suppose!





With nightfall upon us and with a dusting of frost starting to form on the bivvy, I have to say it was looking yet again, like a night time of 'deja vu' which yet again sadly proved to be true.

By now our bodies had sort of gone into autopilot and neither of us were feeling it at all. It was one of those trips that seemed never ending and gave you the feeling that you just couldn't get into. Not that we weren't trying. I think that it was partly because it was coming to the end of a long few months, that had just started to catch up on us.

With the final night upon us, I think we were both secretly looking forward to getting home and enjoying some home comforts. But with about 15 hours less I needed to do something to put the scorecard right, otherwise I was going to be on that long, lonely walk of shame, whilst heading into days, weeks and years, yes years of gloating.

4am - Heard a fish crash to the right of me and with nothing to lose, and the only sighting I'd seen since being here, I quickly wound in, nicked on a fresh bag and a couple of Carp Craze Nuggets on and flicked the rod

back out.

Clock ticking.....

7am - A few coffees in, starting to pack down some of the gear that wasn't needed.

8.15am - Worst of the packing down done, sat in my doorway, coffee pot on the go. Noticed a small lift on my right hand rod (the one I'd repositioned in the early hours).

8.16am - Within seconds. Bobbing hitting the underside of the rod, with some speed.

I found myself scrambling off my floor, to be attached to a very angry carp. I think my brain was actually doing somersaults by this point, with thoughts and emotions that I can't begin to describe. Even though I could tell it wasn't one of the lake's bigger residents, I really didn't care. After sliding the net under it, I have to say I was somewhat relieved.

Emma had heard the commotion and as her head appeared round the corner of my bivvy with a wry smile, I'm not sure who was laughing more.

Yes, I'd left it late, seriously late! But I'd pulled it out the bag and we both knew it was bigger than Emma's previous capture. Maybe only by a few pounds, weighing in at 17lb 20z, but it

really didn't matter.

It just proved that when things are tough and you hit a brick wall. When everything's against you, don't give up!

Have faith in what you do and believe in! My go to being Bait Guru 'Salamino' High Class in 'Mexi-Can' Halo on a Terminal Tackle Size 6 Advanced Barbless Wide Gape and Carp Craze PVA Small bag of 8mm Pellet in Liquid Food had done the business yet again.

And that was to be the last action of the 'Winter' trip and ticket....

With Spring around the corner, I have to say, I'm looking forward to less mud and ice and with lots planned including a new 'Syndicate', I'm hoping that the 'Four Seasons' articles will show fishing for how it is, and even maybe a little insight of how it was. The good, the bad and the ugly.

For now as we say at 'Obsession Carp', "Believe in your Dreams!" and even when blanking, just enjoy being out on the bank. A bad day's fishing is better than a good day's work after all!

Until next time, be lucky.

Mark and Emma Rose ■





# 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.

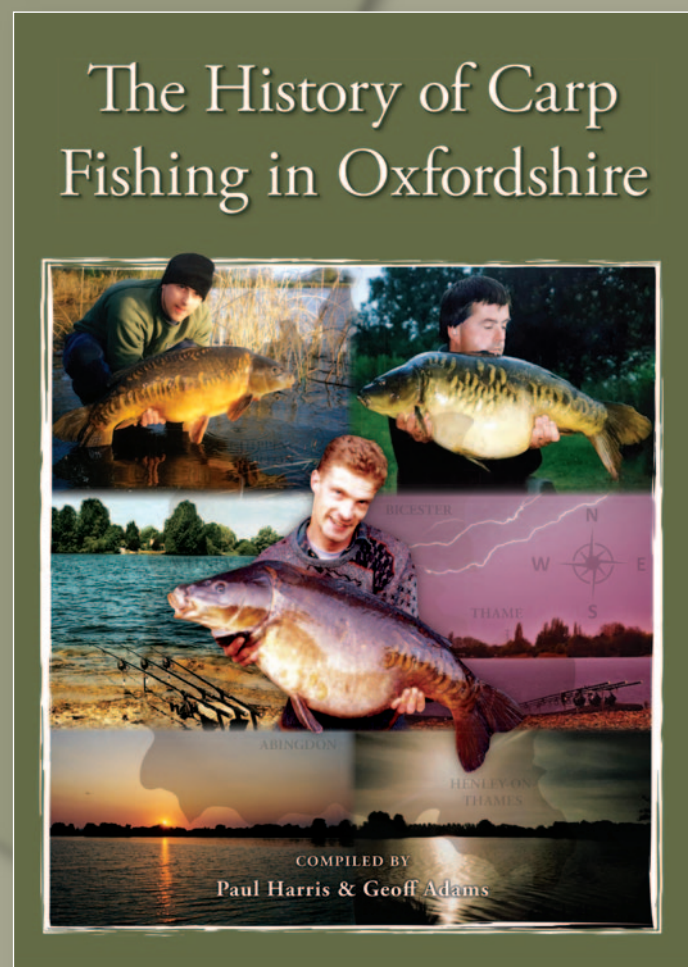
Nick Stansfield is a brilliant young Oxford carper who doesn't shout about his catches. We have two incredible chapters from him from two of the county's most iconic lakes, The Leisure Park and The Big S! Josh Chatfield has written a fantastic chapter which really gives you an insight into how fishing 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...



CARD: 01252 373658

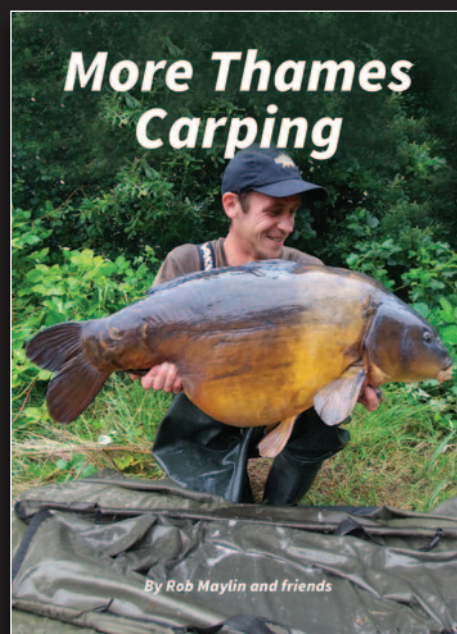
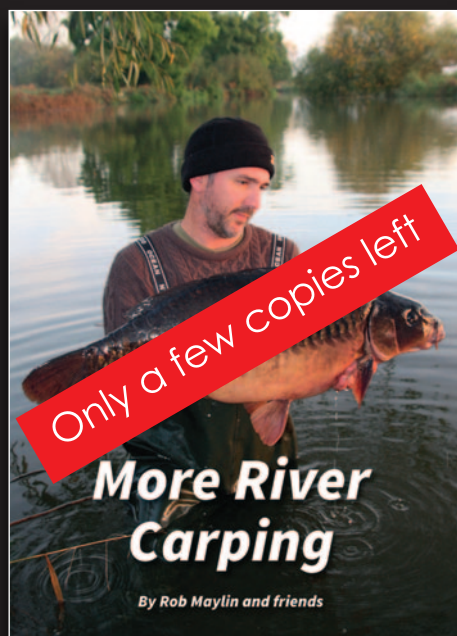
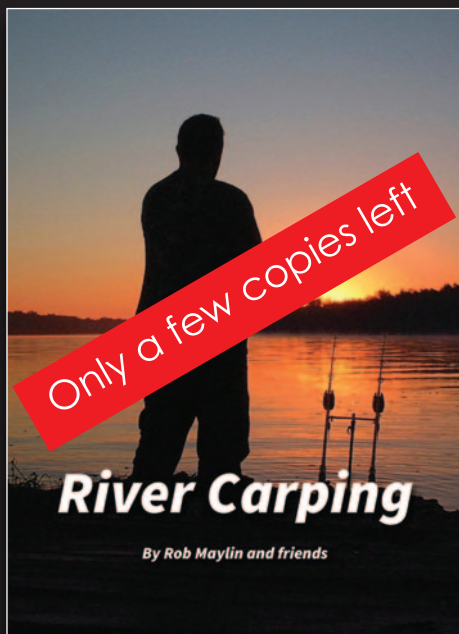
PAYPAL: [www.bigcarpmagazine.co.uk](http://www.bigcarpmagazine.co.uk)

**A V A I L A B L E   N O W**



# THE RIVER CARPING SERIES

*Tales and Technical, a must-read series for the river angler*



01252 373658

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



## UNDER THE RADAR SPECIAL

Featuring:  
**SAM JEFFREYS**  
**DAVE LITTLE**  
**LEIGH STEELE**  
**KEITH JENKINS**  
**ROB ALLEN**

## COMPETITIONS

**WIN** An Urban Bait  
Session Pack

**WIN** A holiday for  
two at Lake Bossard

**WIN** £540 of Carp Books

**WIN** Great Prizes from:  
Bank Tackle, Rod Hutchinson  
Evolution Carp Tackle  
Monster Baits Carp.Online  
and Hobo Armour





## Editor/Publisher

Rob Maylin

Bountyhunter Publications  
44 Herbs End, Cove, Hampshire  
GU14 9YD  
Telephone 01252 373658  
Facsimile 01252 373658  
Mobile 07768 731425  
Email: bigcarpmagazine@hotmail.com

## Advertising Sales

Rob Maylin  
info@freelinemagazine.com  
catchreport@freelinemagazine.com  
advertising@freelinemagazine.com

www.freelinemagazine.com



Also available this month,  
Big Carp Issue 322  
Miss it and miss out!

## You have your say...

We send out nearly 40,000 free digital subscriptions every month now, obviously lots of you send back a quick thank you, which is nice. It's always great to hear so many of you are enjoying the mags. And to hear your suggestions for ways we might improve them. Below are a few recent messages that made me smile. Tight lines everyone and send in your articles if you would like to be a part of it.

### Alex Jones

Just thought I would send you a quick thank you for the free mags again this month. I have been a fan of BC for many years and was gutted when I heard it was going digital. I honestly thought that was the end of it. But I have to admit I was wrong. I love the digital format now. It's as good if not better than it was. BC has always been the one for me because it gives unknown successful anglers the chance to get their catches, methods and views across. You have always stuck to this format, proper articles not just advertisements disguised as articles. Well done, Rob, to keep this standard up for over 40 years is some achievement, and to get it free every month is amazing, about time you wrote another book, isn't it?

### Jon

Hey Rob its Jon from The Netherlands. Thanks for my Free Subby, brilliant as usual. When are you coming over again? we all miss you. Can you make it to next year's Zwolle show?

### David Hughes

Hi Rob, thanks for my free copies as usual. Once again up to your usual standard, awesome reading mate. I really appreciate them every month, times are really tough and I have been struggling to make ends meet over the last few years. I had to stop buying the magazines, just could not afford them, so when you started Freeline, free every month I subscribed straight away. Now Big Carp is free too I have everything I need. I'm not sure you realise just how many anglers like me appreciate the free mags. PLEASE keep up the good work.

### Dylan Harvey

Just an 'outside' point of view - but I find it very 'interesting' the amount of us that 'value' being able to pick up and read... 'we' hold our collections of magazines very highly. I was fortunate enough to have a number of articles published in CA / CW and Carpology over the years. It's perhaps an 'age' thing - but to be able to hold a physical form, that included your work - was the 'crown'. Something to be very proud of. I do not see the magazines in the shops anymore. This is a shame. But I do think that the opportunity to utilise online has not been 'accepted' as much as it could by many of the publishers. I remember very well when Rob Maylin bounced the concept of producing an online format for a magazine. I was particularly impressed when he asked his readership to come up with a name and a design. Hence 'Freeline' was born. This is pioneering - and for me, I think many should have taken note. What I think is 'brilliant' - is our sport is based on ideas, ingenuity, and being able to adapt and change - I think it is very apt, that it is a publication - owned and run by an angler - that has set a president.

### Dave Aldridge

I for one used to love getting BC and Carpworld delivered to the shop every month back in the early 90s, as soon as we put 'em on the counter they would fly out, there is something about holding the mag in your hand and turning the page, great times. I used to write a catch report for the Medway Valley in Kent for BC, loved doing it, also had an article published in Carpworld back in the day, loved the Anglers Mail and the Times, can't wait to get back to the UK in a couple of months and scour through the old boxes in the attic of my parents' house for any old books and mags. I recently only got back to fishing again a few months ago, I live in the cold winter country of Sweden now and the Lake is still frozen unfortunately so gagging to fish again. Just discovered Freeline online magazine tonight, it's great. At least I've got some great articles to read to keep me enthusiastic. Great!

### Joe Cross

Thanks for posting the mag up. I've visited the link and just wanted to thank whoever is involved Rob. What a great online magazine. Fair play to whoever is running it. Great to be able to have something like this available for when the kids and work give me an hour to read. If I was a better author, I'd write you a column about my angling and the wonders and successes of fitting it around busy dock work and family life. Though I feel I'm not that qualified. Have a good one and good luck to whoever is producing the goods. Joe

**Free digital subscription for Big Carp and Freeline Magazines!**

**Just type FREE SUBBY and email info@bigcarpmagazine.co.uk**

**You will receive both magazines totally FREE as soon as they come out!**



Carp Chat Carpy News .....6

Carp Scene Reviews .....22

## ARTICLES

25 Years of Horton *by Keith Jenkins* .....30

Big Carp Promotions – Le Queroy .....40

Spotted Fin Review *by Rob Maylin* .....44

Big Carp Promotions – Oak Lake Fisheries .....46

The Carp That Time Forgot *by Josh Myatt* .....48

Under the Radar *by Sam Jefferys* .....54

The Big Mirror *by Rob Allen* .....74

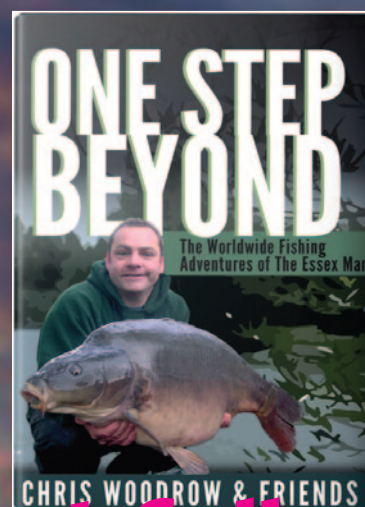
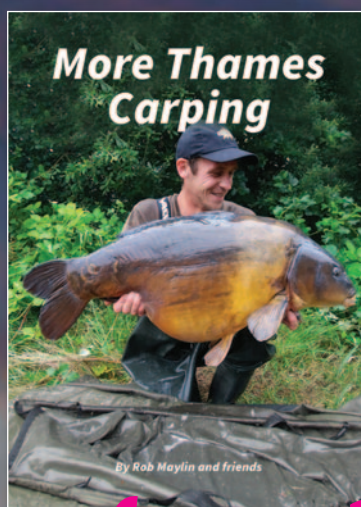
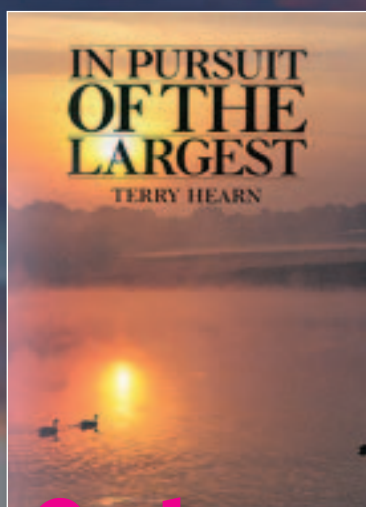
Holbrook Gardens *by Leigh Steele* .....80

The Farm Pit *by Lee Bennett* .....90

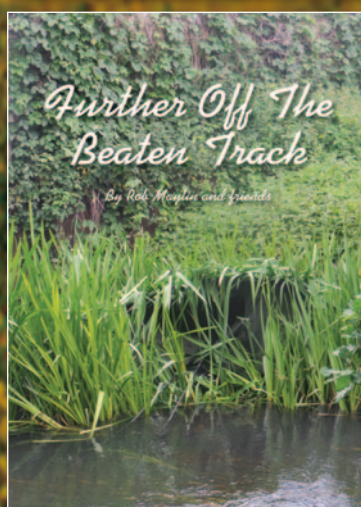
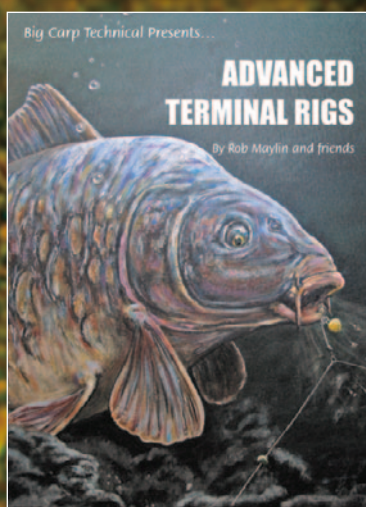
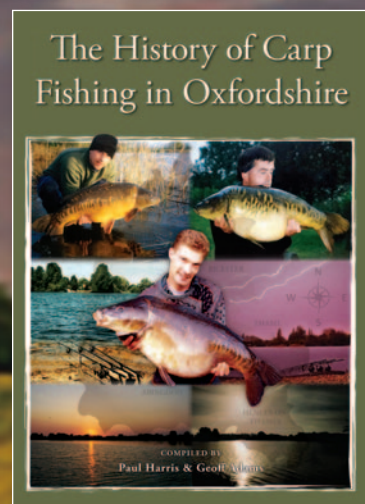
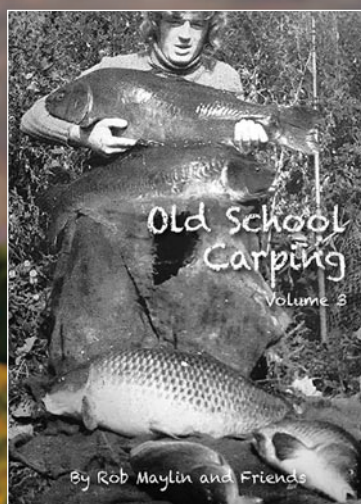
A Trip Down Meadow Lane *by Dave Little* .....92



# SPRING INT



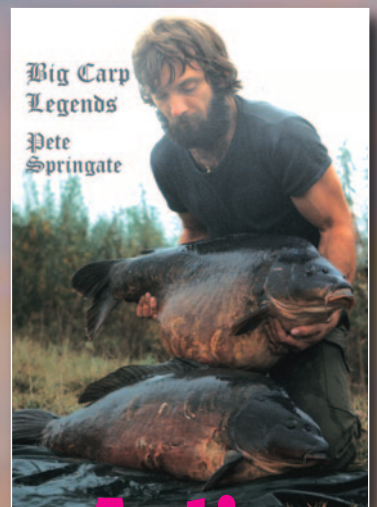
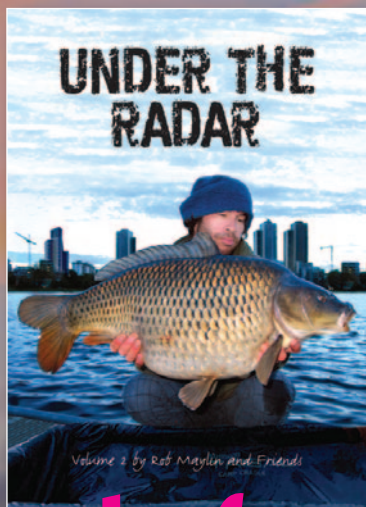
Order one of our Best Sellers and



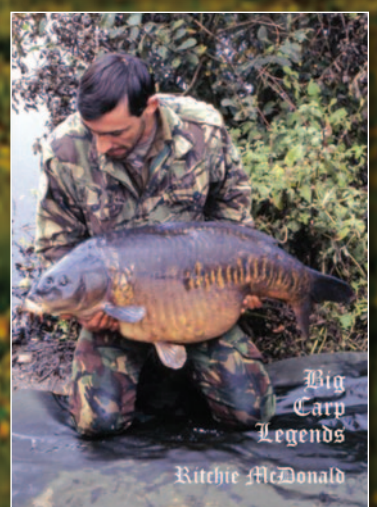
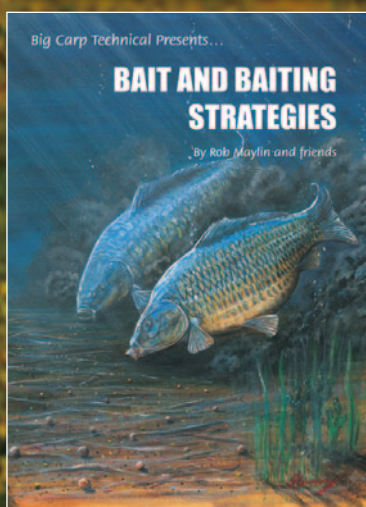
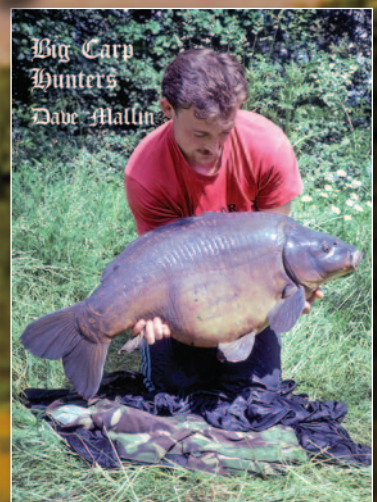
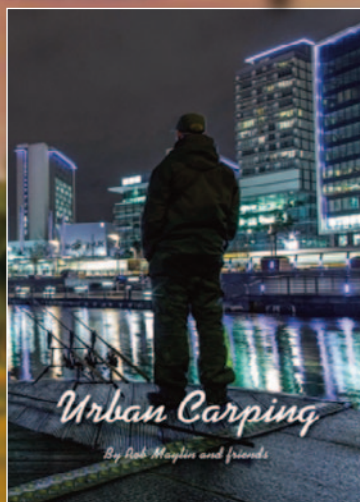
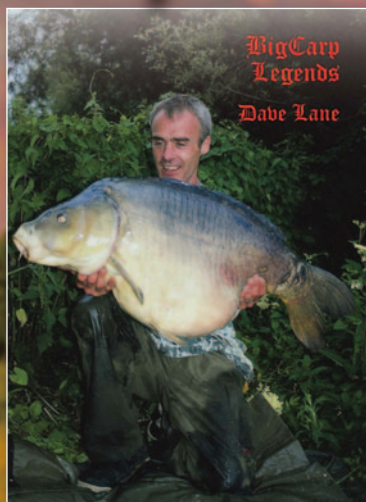
NEW BOOKS [www.bigcarpma](http://www.bigcarpma)  
NEW AND OLD BOOKS: [www.ebay](http://www.ebay)



# TO ACTION



get ready for some Spring Action



[gazine.co.uk/online-shop.html](http://gazine.co.uk/online-shop.html)  
[.co.uk/usr/rarecarpbooksunlimited](http://.co.uk/usr/rarecarpbooksunlimited)





FREE LINE  
MAGAZINE

# CARP CHAT

## Carpy News



## Angling Taster days over the 2023 Summer Holidays

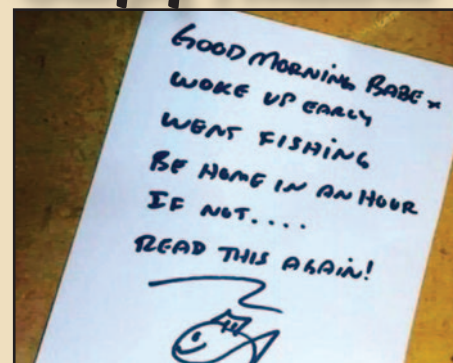
BPCFS Angling are offering the Emergency Services Family an opportunity to attend Angling Taster days over the 2023 Summer Holidays. There are 2 events planned which will provide you and your families an opportunity to get outdoors and give angling a try. They are totally free to attend, all equipment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

## Carpy 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 pstrągiem 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](http://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

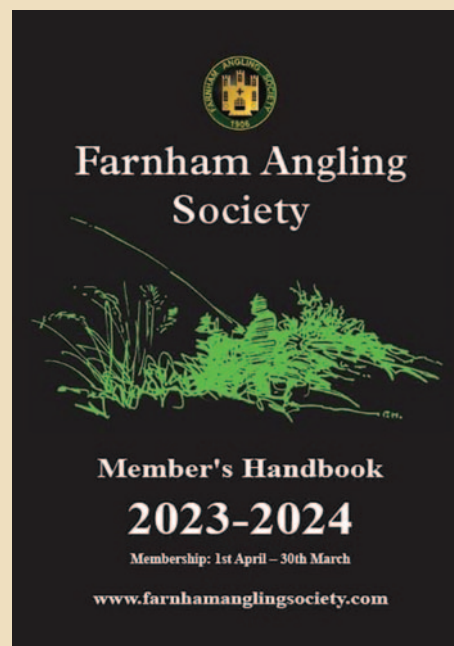
**mind CPSL**  
Cambridgeshire,  
Peterborough and  
South Lincolnshire

**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**

Facebook Instagram YouTube **POWERED BY tyg tickets**



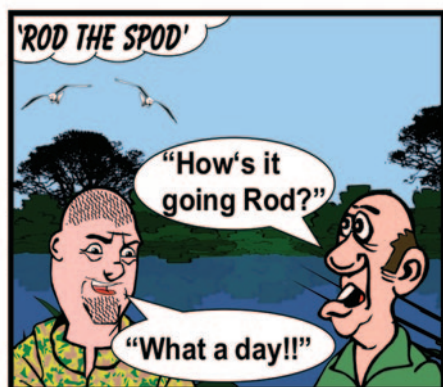
**Farnham Angling Society**

**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.

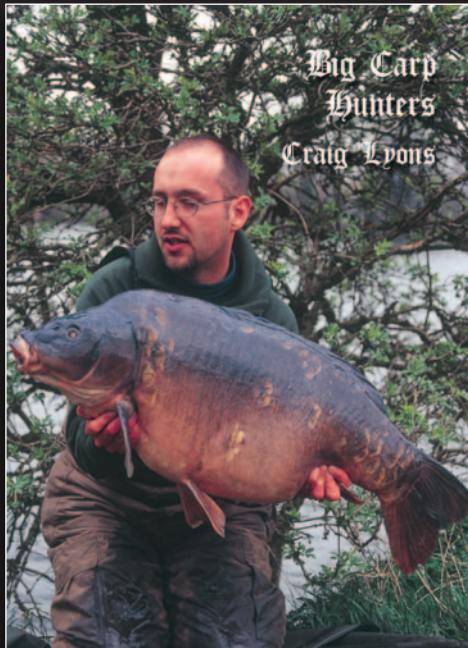
Those ordering BCAA membership will be sent their membership books once we receive the from the BCAA, which is often in May. Ian Gray, Honorary Secretary, on behalf of the Executive Committee. ■



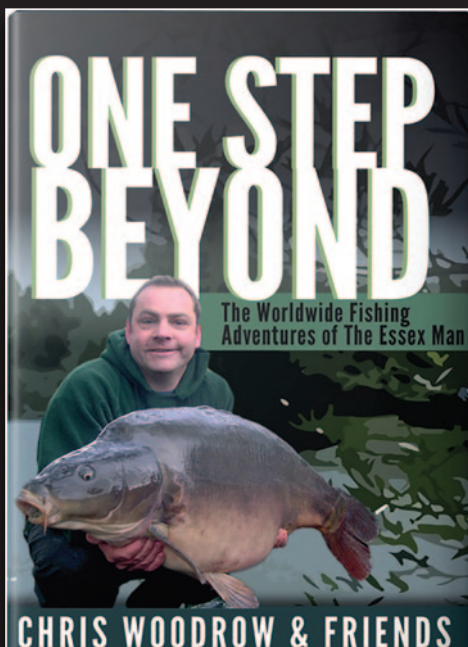
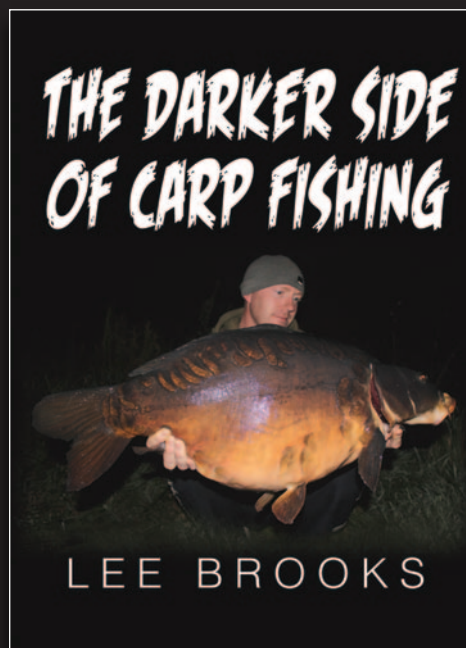
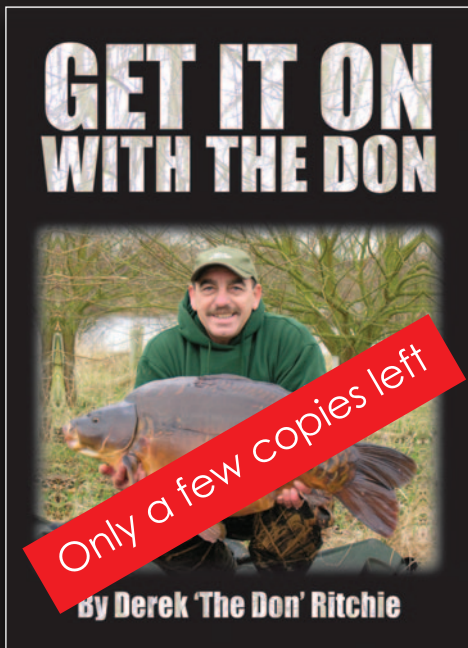
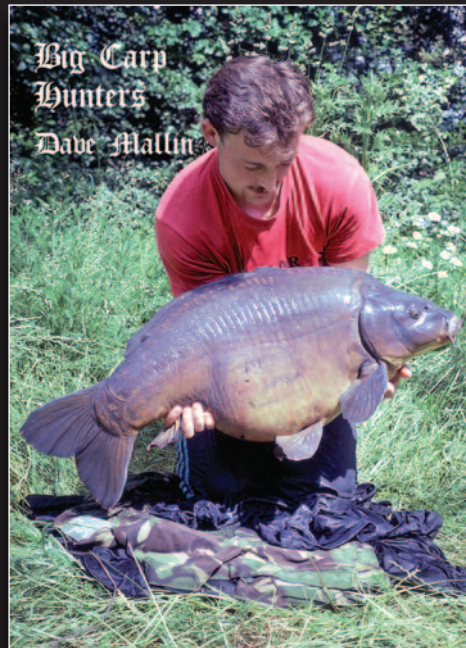
PAUL RODRIGUEZ



# THE BIG CARP HUNTER SERIES



*The Unsung hero's prolific catches with a unique tale to tell*



01252 373658  
[www.bigcarpmagazine.co.uk](http://www.bigcarpmagazine.co.uk)



## 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/#faq](http://www.takeafriendfishing.co.uk/#faq)

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/#faq](http://www.takeafriendfishing.co.uk/#faq)

### 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

**DIRTY DIP**  
With brave diver Mark Barrow

**EXCLUSIVE BY NICOLA METHVEN**

**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 wetsuit 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 1989, when the water firms were privatised, they have become big businesses. In 2022, Yorkshire Water made £200million profit and United Utilities made £300m. 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.

Paul Foster Woodhead, 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 *Cut-wide*, retired maths 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 from the industry, mostly to shareholders 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.

[www.bbc.com/news/health-65888888](https://www.bbc.com/news/health-65888888)

<https://twitter.com/gampermedia>

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

PAUL WHITEHOUSE IS  
COLLUSION WITH DEATH

**LAB TIME**  
Star probes a river sample



## 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 ■







## Selk'bag Lite Recycled

The Lite wearable sleeping bag is designed to be as adventurous as you are while providing maximum comfort and warmth.

Now made with 100% recycled materials, the Lite is a sleeping bag with legs adults' can wear indoors, as well as outdoors in the spring and summer seasons in the UK.



### **Interested?**

Scan the QR code or visit [www.selkbag.co.uk](http://www.selkbag.co.uk) to learn more about the Selk'bag Lite Recycled.





## 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.

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.

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. 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 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 web-page 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 Zerotfit Silverfish champion!



Match ace Andy Bennett is the new Angling Trust Zerotfit 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

Zerotfit SilverFish 2023 champion Andy Bennett also receives a Zerotfit Base-layer 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 Zerotfit 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. ■



# 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.



# Custom Bait Boat Paint Jobs, Finance Option and a Free RT7 all in one Controller epp Case



At Carplounge we understand that your baitboat is more than just a tool for fishing. It's an extension of your style and personality on the water. We've received countless requests for airbrush designs for our flagship, and we're thrilled to introduce our top 10 signature designs in limited quantities now!

These designs perfectly complement the modern, sleek look of the RT7 All-in-One Baitboat and make your RT7 stand out even more from the crowd! Only 10 of each design available! Don't miss your chance to give your RT7 baitboat the ultimate personal touch! Order now and make your RT7 truly yours – before they're gone!



Get ready for the ultimate carp fishing experience with the new RT7 Bait Boat! Packed with incredible features and an amazing new handset, this fishing companion is a game-changer. Don't miss out on the opportunity to pre-order yours online today!

## **NEW: RT7 ALL-In-ONE Controller EPP CASE**

Maximum protection for your AIC • Optimal organisation of accessories

Ultra lightweight outdoor design • Integrated ventilation system

**Free of charge: For all RT7 Pre-Order orders!**

### **You already have an RT7 in Pre-Order?**

then you don't need to do anything:

we include the new AIC EPP Case free of charge with your RT7

### **Last chance: RT7 Pre-Order Deals**

Over 95% pre-ordered > be quick now and order one of the last RT7 with Pre-Order discount and get the new AIC Case for free.

Upgrade your fishing game with these custom baitboats! How would you design yours?

<https://www.facebook.com/carplounge/videos/238072571947033>



Free Line

FREE LINE  
MAGAZINE

CARP  
SCENE

Reviews

## How to pack a sleeping bag, by Snuggpak

When you're packing up your camping gear after a night in the great outdoors, it can be rather frustrating when the sleeping bag just doesn't seem to fit into the bag it came out of the night before.

To make it easier for camping enthusiasts, Snuggpak, the UK's leading sleeping bag and insulated clothing manufacturer, has created a video to demonstrate the perfect technique for packing a sleeping bag.

The informative 90-second video is available to view on Snuggpak's YouTube channel and stars Mick Dobson, Snuggpak's managing director, who shows viewers how easy it can be to pack up a sleeping bag after use when using the correct technique.

For further information about Snuggpak or to buy products online via one of Snuggpak's preferred stockists, please visit [www.snuggpak.com](http://www.snuggpak.com) or call 01535 654479.



## 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**



**0 Bites, 0 Fish,  
7 Hours**



## 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 stream-lined 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) ■







## 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>





# CARP TACKLE ONLINE

**NEW PRODUCTS, BEST  
SELLERS AND DEALS**

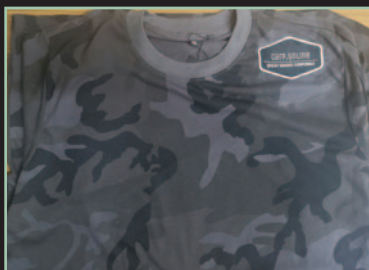
carp.online

QUALITY WITHOUT COMPROMISE

**CARP TACKLE ONLINE**  
**WWW.CARPTACKLEONLINE.COM**



Swivel Deal



T-Shirt



Hoody



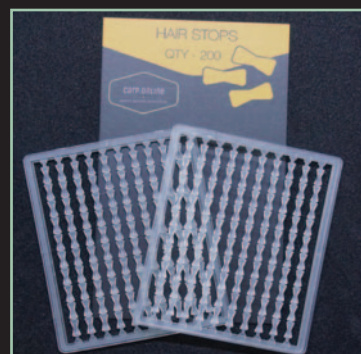
Shrink Tube



Tungsten Putty



Hook Beads



Hair Stops



Tungsten Hooklink  
Sinker



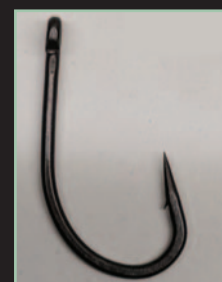
Swivels



Scorpion Chod Hooks



Scorpion Crank Hook



Scorpion Snag Hook



Chod Filament



Composite Leadclips



Choddy Crank Hook



Scorpion Ronnie Rig



Tungsten Kickers



Hair Aligners

**www.carptackleonline**

See us on Facebook





# CARP TACKLE ONLINE

**NEW PRODUCTS, BEST  
SELLERS AND DEALS**

carp.online

QUALITY WITHOUT COMPROMISE

**CARP TACKLE ONLINE**  
**WWW.CARPTACKLEONLINE.COM**

## A Few Recent Captures Caught on carptackleonline Products



Team member John Paul McCusker had a very productive two days down on Monks Pit this week getting amongst some fish: Landed six lovely carp, two going over the 30 barrier. Another three fish going 25, 26 and 28. The Last morning had a mental four-hr spell landing four fish. Made the 170 mile journey home a lot more enjoyable. Caught using plenty of #mainlinebaits and pellet on 2 rods and zig on the 3rd rod Using #carponline size 4 #Scorpion hooks and #carponline zig hooks" Well done, John.





We are absolutely stoked to have Bruce McCarlie join our team! Bruce really needs little introduction, he is known for catching big carp, from the UK and abroad, long time Mistral Baits man with many years of experience in the fishing world. We look forwards to working with Bruce, welcome on board.



Really good weekend for team member Jack Caro on the bank with fellow team member James Johnson. Even better to have some fish out as well all caught using size 6 Scorpion Crank hooks and carp tackle online end gear to seal the deal. Ending up with 5 carp (28lb, 27lb, 18lb, 15.7lb, 13.7lb). Well done, Jack.



An absolutely stunning dark 21lb 4oz common caught by team member Luke Woolley. Like used a hinge stiff rig made out of our CTO Chod Filament, Flexi Ring Swivels and ultra-sharp Scorpion Chod Hooks. Well done, Luke.



Well first fish of 2023 for team member Jarred Howard and it's a banger of a common 25lb dead on 1 of a 6 fish session with a couple high doubles caught using our Size 4 Scorpion Wide Gape hooks, CTO Pro Hooklink, Oval Ring Bait Screw and the Composite Safety Leaders with Ring Swivels. Well done Jarred, perfect scale common!



More success for team member Tim Thornton @oldskoolcarp on Durlough Res, this time Tim fished at 120 yards with his go to rig an IQ2 D tied using our size 4 Scorpion Crank hook. Tim caught a 27lb 8oz mirror and 23lb 8oz common on this session. Well done, Tim!



See us on  
Facebook

[www.carptackleonline](http://www.carptackleonline.com)



# Beneath the Flight Path

Part One by Keith Jenkins





I didn't realise the poignancy of this 25th Anniversary Edition of Big Carp until Rob asked me if I'd write something about Horton and Wraysbury, but when he told me that the first edition came out in April 1991 it all sort of clicked into place.

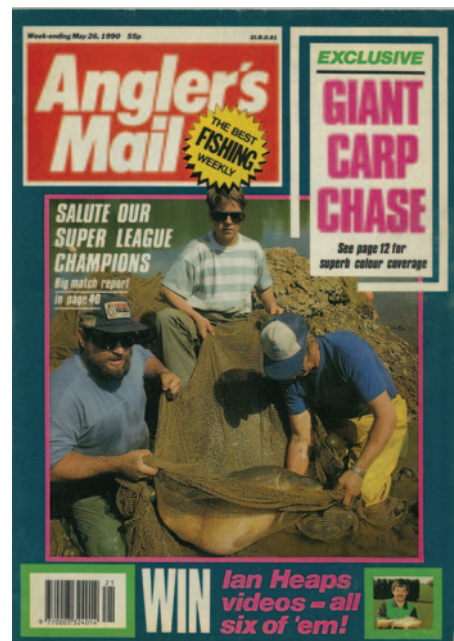
A few months earlier, at the beginning of January, Laney and I had put our names down for the soon-to-be-formed Horton syndicate, and as the very first Big Carp mag hit the shelves we were counting down the days to the first of May, when the names of the syndicate would be announced. So, as the pages of the second Big Carp were being greedily devoured by the soon-to-be avid readership, I got a call to let me know that Dave and I had been successful in our application. Little did we know the massive effect that phone call was going to have on our lives, and that of many others.

The whole Horton affair had been sourly received a year or so earlier, when it was announced that the Longfield lakes were to be drained, and the fish to be moved to the former trout fishery – Church Lake, Horton. A lot of carp fishing history was tied up with the Longfield lakes, and both the carp and the anglers that fished for

them had gained an almost legendary status, so when this move was announced, at very little notice, there was a bit of an uproar. This roar grew even louder when it became clear that Horton was to be opened in June 1990 as a day ticket water. What? Just any old angler fishing for the likes of The Parrot, Shoulders, Big Scale, The Lady and Jack the Net Ripper? Surely the world had gone mad?

As the growls and grumbles rumbled on, however, Leisure Sport were hatching a much more significant plan, and so it was that, at the start of 1991, it was announced in the angling press that a 50-man syndicate was being formed on the Church Lake, and would begin on June 16th of that year.

And so it began... fifty blokes with varying degrees of carp fishing success and ability, given the opportunity to fish for some big old carp. At the time there were no legends; oh, we all knew about Jack the Net Ripper and The Parrot, and Laney had his heart set on a meeting with Shoulders, but to the rest of the angling world it was just another syndicate lake that they couldn't get a ticket for, and so what if it held a forty pound carp? It was all false; they were all stockies, and they'd probably throw themselves on the bank one after the other. Oh, if



only that were so!

Laney's written about that first meeting in the car park in 'An Obsession...' and I couldn't do any better, really. Suffice to say that a lot of strangers met on June 14th 1991, and a lot of friends toasted the end of that first season in the Lodge on March 13th 1992.

If there were any doubts that we were on a special lake, at a special time, they were dispelled eighteen minutes past midnight on that first day of the 1991 season, when Tony Badham slipped the net under Jack the Net Ripper for his mate, Johnny Moul. The great fish weighed 44lb 4oz, and would visit the bank another five times that year, becoming the first forty for the likes of Dave Lane and Phil Thompson.

Less than a dozen hours after that first capture, Stuart Rothwell landed another of the Longfield A-team in the shape of the lovely Lady at 34lb 4oz. As well as being one of the loveliest carp in the country, she was also one of the... errr... more senior, shall we say? When she died in 1997 it was estimated that she was well over 40 years old – didn't she look good with it? She also became Laney's second fish out of the lake, a month after Stuart's capture, and ignited his quest to catch as many of the Horton A-team as he could. He didn't do too badly in



(Top) The Longfield netting – not best received by many.

(Left) And so it began – Johnny Moul with Jack at 44lb, 18 minutes after the start.





the end.

I managed a couple of fish early on, including a bungled weighing of Lumpy, before catching what is still one of my favourite captures – Shoulders at an ounce over 38lb. That was my first (official) thirty and it just blew me away. Like I said earlier, many of our lives were changed forever on Horton, and that day was probably when mine was set on an entirely different course. The memory of that capture probably kept me going a year or so later when I blanked for a whole season, and if I hadn't seen the possibilities that Horton offered with my own eyes I might have caved in and gone elsewhere – lucky I didn't, really.

By the end of that first season a few things became apparent –

- *Winter was a complete waste of time.*
  - *Pete Tolchard loved to fish in amongst the weed (hence the name Weedbed Willie) and caught nine carp whilst doing so.*
  - *The Lodge was a fine place to while away a long winter's evening.*
  - *The planes were loud, but Concorde was bleeding deafening!*
- At the end of that first season, just

over fifty carp had been landed, including two different forties and a dozen different thirties, but if we thought it would get easier over the next few seasons we were sorely mistaken, and for the next four or five seasons that figure of 'just over fifty carp' would remain constant, shared between the fifty syndicate members. The number of thirties and forties, however, would not remain constant, and by the end of the 1993/4 season there were five constant forty-pounders in the lake.

Early into the 1992 season, Alan 'Wiggy' South had a morning to remember when he landed two of those forties within half an hour of each other, and what a brace they turned out to be: Jack at 49lb was followed by Shoulders at 41lb 10oz. We weren't sure if it was some sort of record, but Wiggy really didn't care. He'd had the catch of a lifetime, and no amount of records would ever change that.

As the second season ticked along, a few things changed. Richard Howell became 'Reg', Martin Gardner became 'Sticky Bean', Chris Pearson became 'CP' and Robbie Stoddard became a legend! That last was nothing to do with Robbie's carp catching ability, although during his time on there he certainly caught a few. It was just that, well... if you ever met Robbie on the bank then you will know exactly what I mean – you couldn't wish for a better friend, nor a worse enemy. He was much better as a friend.

That was something else that was happening, although at the time none of us realised – we were forming that very rare bond that only happens a very few times in a lifetime. Call it what you will – camaraderie, friendship, respect – but over those first few years of the syndicate the strangers who had met in the car park at the beginning of the first season were slowly becoming lifelong friends. I don't know if it's a carp fishing thing,

**(Top left) Shoulders – a fish that changed my way of thinking.**  
**(Below) The planes were loud, but Concorde was deafening!**







# 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...





but you read a lot of similar sentiments from guys who have fished difficult lakes – Redmire, Savay, Longfield, Wraysbury. It seems that the need to pit your wits against the carp is something best shared with like-minded people, and that was no more evident than on Horton.

It was becoming increasingly clear that the Horton carp had taken to their new home with alacrity, and the depths and weed and profuse natural food offerings all combined to make the Church Lake one of the most testing waters that any of us had ever fished. The ‘just over fifty carp’ that graced the bank on each of those first four or five seasons were not shared out evenly amongst the fifty members, and at the end of each season you could see that hollow look in at

least a dozen eyes – that look that said, ‘How could I have blanked for a whole season?’

I was one of those with the hollow look in his eyes at the end of the 1993 season. Having lost a fish on the opening session when the hook broke, I failed to register another bite for the rest of the season. Whether it was the memory of that capture of Shoulders in the first season that kept me going, I’m not sure. I think it had a subconscious effect, but the main thing was that growing bond between a few of us on the lake, and as much as I may have struggled, I was just as elated as if it were me when one of the guys caught a great big mirror carp from those weedy depths.

Mercifully, my fishless torture ended two days into the 1994 season when I caught a very spawned out CP’s from the Shoulders swim. At 34lb, she was my second largest carp, but that mattered not at all. I just knew that, at last, I could catch carp, and a mere eight months later I caught my second of the season when I landed the beautiful Lady on a frosty March morning.

Reg went through a similar barren spell, which was broken when Robbie morphed into the legendary Gibley the Carp Troll, diving down into ten



**(Top) Wiggy with a stunning brace.  
(Right) Sticky Bean.**





feet of water to free a 24lb carp from a snag, and thus end Reg's 22-month blank.

By the time Reg landed that carp, Laney had long gone, having completed his assault on the Horton A-team, moving onto Wraysbury to inflict a similar punishment on its leathery denizens. In his three seasons on Horton he had caught more than forty carp – probably twice as many as anybody else on there – and had concluded his time on there by landing the wonderful Shoulders after a boat battle that lasted a couple of hours. In his time on there he had carved his name into Horton Legend



on more than one occasion.

I suppose it began when he lost that very first carp along the margins of the Church Bank. From that day he vowed to catch all of the A-team, just to get his own back, and that he did. On one morning at the beginning of the 1992 season he hooked four carp in the space of about two hours, landing three. Amongst them was the increasingly impressive CP's at a little over 39lb, but to the half a dozen of us who gathered around to gawp on that June morning, the most poignant moment was when he actually lost a fish.

He'd just landed a carp, so whilst the fish was being laid onto the mat at the back of the swim, the other rod was lying on the ground, off the alarm. At some point somebody said, 'What's that noise?' and we all looked

down at the rod to see the reel spinning like mad. As Dave got to it, the spool slowed and as he raised the rod high there was no resistance. The fish had gone, and Laney was not happy. He'd had the catch of a lifetime from Horton, but he still wasn't happy, and from that point I think we all realised that he was a few rungs further up the ladder than the rest of us.

That didn't mean that we didn't catch our share. The wonderful Tony

(Top) CP.  
(Above) Robbie.  
(Left) Reg.





Badham, who I'm honoured to still have as a very good friend, suddenly got it right one season. He'd caught a couple of carp over the previous few years, but because of a progressive illness that his lovely wife, Linda, had, his time at the lake was pretty limited. Because of that he decided to find himself a quiet little spot that he could bait up and try to entice a few carp from and so, at the beginning of the '95 season, he had a plumb about



in the back of the Church Bay, and lo and behold there were two or three lovely little clear spots that had probably never been fished. After waiting patiently for a few sessions when the Bay was occupied on both sides, he arrived one day to find it empty so hightailed it to his little swim and dropped some baits in. By the end of his two-day session he had landed the Long One at 27lb and Jack, at a new lake record of 49lb 6oz! His hard work and persistence continued to pay dividends, and by the end of the summer he had landed three more carp, all commons, one of which was his long sought after thirty-pounder in the shape of Goldie at 30lb 7oz. It really couldn't have happened to a nicer fella.

Later that year Jack graced my net, a few hours after Robbie had caught Heart Tail in a swim to my right. Jack weighed 46lb and was my only fish of the season, but that meagre total was to be surpassed in huge style the following season. I still think that 1996 was one of the most memorable



years, not only of my life, but also many of the anglers on Horton that year, and I suppose that was brought into stark contrast by the events of the following summer.

I caught eight fish, five of them forties, but how dull that sounds as a statistic. Here's another statistic: I spoke to Chris Ball, the Keeper of Forties Captures, about the number of forties in England at that time. He told me that, including my captures (which included four different forties) 38 different forties were reported to

**(Top) Laney with Shoulders to complete the full set.  
(Left) Tony Badham with Goldie.**





(Top) Last gasp Peach for Sir Pete.

Carp-Talk that year, and he would estimate the number of forties overall would have been no more than fifty.

That sort of puts that season into perspective, I suppose.

But, again, emotionless facts and

figures don't even scratch the surface of what that season was like for a number of us. Chilly catching Jack off the top; Reg with the Thorpe Park common; Frogger's peacock call when he caught the elusive Tetley's common; spoofing with Reg and Chilly in March for a swim in the carp-infested Church Bay; Alan Taylor's legendary evening buffets; Gazza's goal against Scotland; Stuart Pearce's penalty; Sir Pete's last-gasp whacker.

There was so much that happened that year that moulded a lot of our futures, so rather than scratch the surface of it here I'm acceding to Tim Paisley's constant cajoling and putting it all down in a book. I dunno if anybody will want to read it, but, for me, it's such an important part of my life that it's just been nice to relive it.

By the end of that season there were six different forties in Horton – Jack, The Parrot, Shoulders, The Koi, Lumpy and CP's. Four months later there were just two.

■ See part 2 next month. ■

## Carpy Humour



**2 WEEKS LATER...**





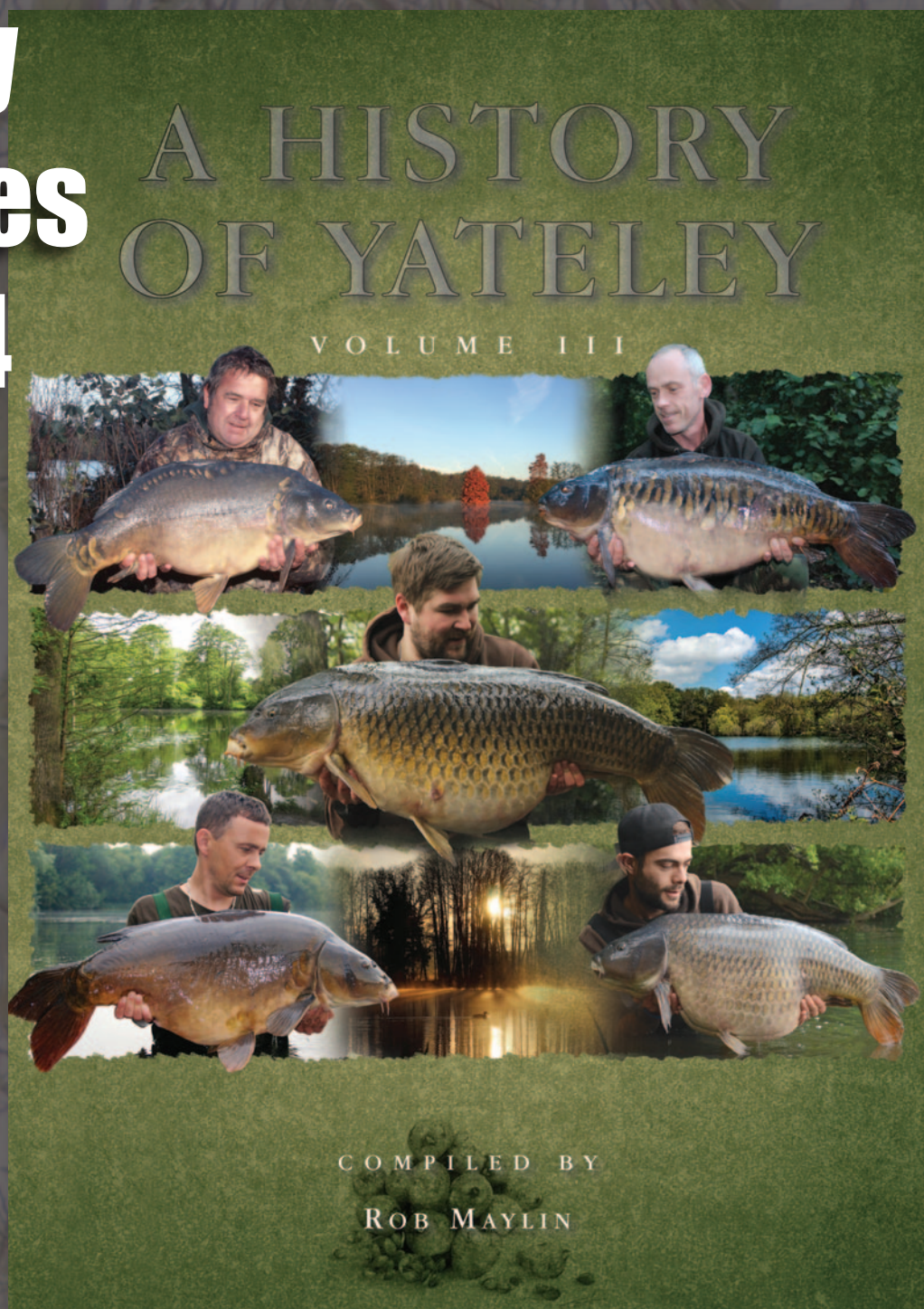
# Yateley Volumes 3 and 4

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-plus.

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.

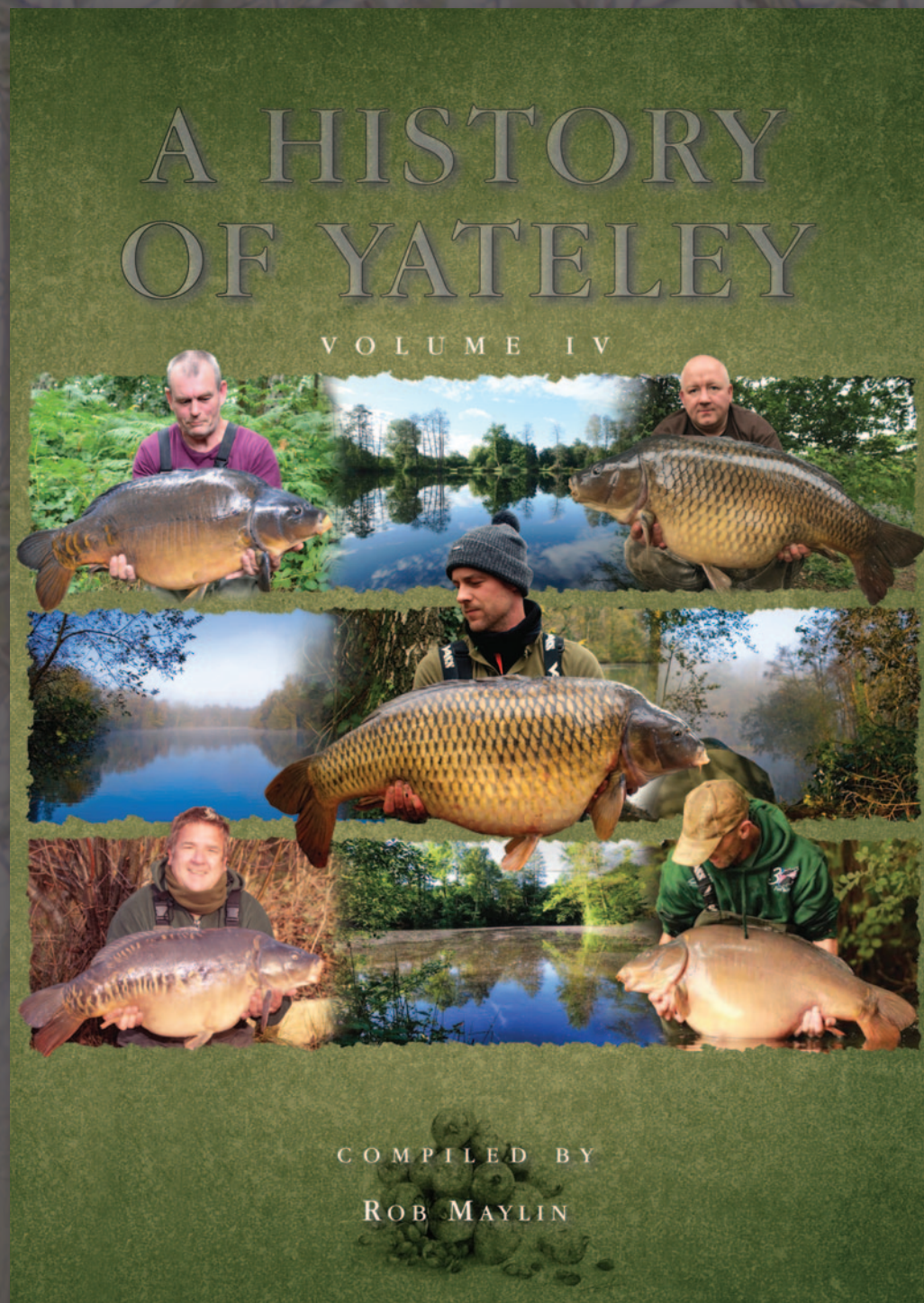
Volume 3 contains chapters on the North Lake, The Split Lake, Horseshoe and Pumphouse. The Pads Lake, Car Park, Moulsham and Mill Lane.

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!



PAY BY CARD - 01252 373658

SEE THE BOOKS AND PAY BY PAYPAL

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



## March 2016 Lake Review

# Le Queroy, Colossal Carp

**Lieu dit Le Queroy, Abzac, 16500, France**  
**By Kevin Goss, Ricky Westpfel, Paul Wood**

**M**arch saw the BC Promotions team back in rural France where we were invited back by our now friends, Daniel and Jodie to fish and review their other lake, Lake Elba (and yeah, you heard me, Dan and Jodie's other lake... you don't like them already do ya?). You may or may not remember our previous visit to Le Queroy and the Napoleonic Lake in 2015. Given that in only five days the team saw no less than seventeen fish to 51lbs all banked in February, you can only imagine our excitement to return this time a little later in the year. In only Dan's second full year of fishery management, he and his family have well and truly put Le Queroy on the map. The Napoleonic Lake is already fully booked for the whole of 2016 with bookings now being taken for 2017/2018. Wanting to cater for as many anglers as possible, Daniel and Jodie have turned their full attention to Lake Elba, hoping that this too will be equally as popular, and what better way than getting us boys back to offer a little BC exposure? Situated in



acre upon acre of picturesque French countryside just outside the town of Abzac, this we assure you will be a French fishing holiday you will not forget.

Le Queroy isn't one of the closest lakes to sunny England; in fact it's quite the schlep at about eight hours door-to-door roughly, but believe us it's well worth the trip, as Le Queroy is a five-star venue with monster fish almost being an added bonus to your visit! The fishery having closed for their annual three-month resting

period meant that we were going to be fishing for carp that hadn't seen a boilie since end of November... That's three months – eek! The excitement was killing us, and this year's visit was only one week before the season opened, and we were buzzing.

Less about us, and back to the banks of Lake Elba... This superb lake is a hand dug, spring fed, six-acre lake that holds stock of around 120 carp with the biggest just shy of the 70lb mark. The lake has depths that run from about 1.5 meters to 3.9 meters in places with features such as sunken islands, lily beds and an overflow vent in the southeast corner, with the vent supposedly a favoured spot for the big girl (thank you local resident Clive Westpfel for this bit of inside info). Boasting mirrors, commons, leathers



**Ricky Westpfel and a cracking 32lb Elba mirror.**



**+33 545 311 522**  
**WWW.LEQUEROYFISHING.COM**





and grass carp all averaging 20lb through to 69lb, what's not to like about this place? With no set swims, just bank, you can decide to pitch up anywhere. Although it could handle more, Dan's ideal number is four anglers at any one time on Lake Elba, which enables each angler ample water so as not to encroach on each other's water.

The lake is young, but not without established features, and there are still trees that overhang the water's edge, along with banks of reeds and

bushes lining the margins. The peace and quiet of the lake is only broken now and again by the sound of nature, a toad, a frog, a woodpecker or owl, and, like us, you might be really lucky to be woken by the sound of a donkey getting what we can only describe as a little distraught... no, murdered... somewhere in the distance! That sound will never leave us!

Although what we've covered so far sounds like a drive and survive holiday, that couldn't be further from the truth. Daniel the owner has made

himself very busy by building a fantastic new eco lodge for Lake Elba (available from June 2016). The eco lodge will sleep a total of four anglers with a fully fitted kitchen including a washing machine, a full Sky package, free WiFi, swimming pool and hot tub. The lake is only a four-minute walk from the lodge, so it's easy to see why you could decide to rest your swim and have a day off and take in the surroundings. This eco lodge now complements its sister lake and its accommodation. For those who missed our last visit, the Napoleonic Lake boasts a purpose-built five-star lodge/gite, so now both lakes offer amazing comfort and quality. Le Queroy can also supply you with a full tackle and bait package, so if the drive puts you off, why not fly into local Poitiers airport? It's less than 40 minutes away – just bring your reels and terminal tackle and the fishery will hire you the rest.

We arrived at the lake just a few hours before sunset on the Saturday evening, and after meeting Dan and getting the lowdown on the lake, we had a chat amongst ourselves to pick areas and set up. The first night was a quiet one with temperatures hitting minus five, but Kevin still banked the first fish of the week, a 39lb mirror, a few hours after casting out. The night

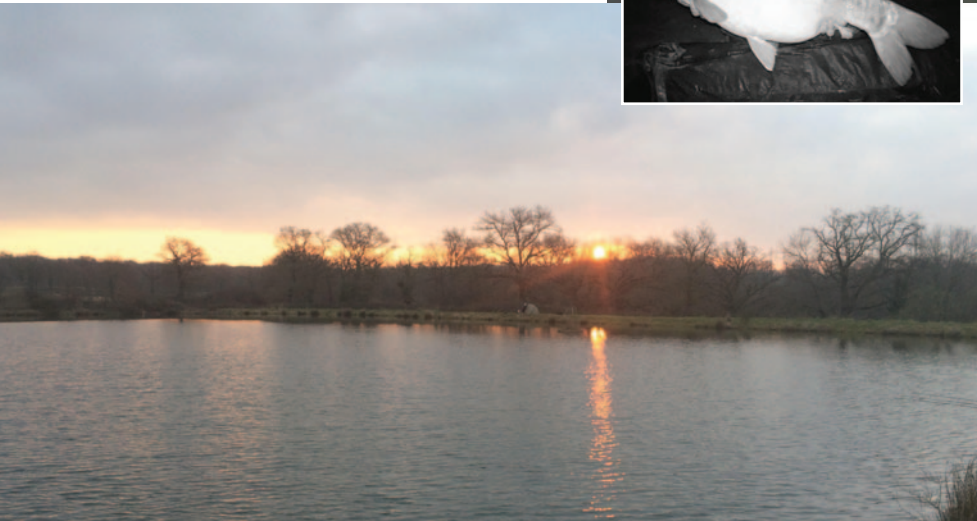
**Kevin Goss with the largest of the week's carp at 46lb.**





came and went... The morning brought a new vigour, and with the rods reset our spirits were high. It was mid-afternoon when Paul's rod next ripped off, and he lifted into a good fish, a lovely 42lb mirror. This was not to be Paul's last; he had two other beauties before the trip was over.

Crowsheath manager Nick Kearsy, a guest on our session, ended up with three carp to 32lb on Lake Elba but moved with other guest Nigel Linge to try out the Napoleonic Lake and was given permission from the owner to do so (not something that would be allowed any other time). Both man-



aged to catch 40lb-plus carp and smashed some French PBs. Next carp on Elba came halfway through the week when Rick decided to join the party with his first carp, a 34lb mirror, and then soon after, another at 32lb. The rest of that day, the night and following day passed without incident, but after finishing off a lovely final meal prepared by Ricky, Paul had his third (he may have been a little merry from memory), a small but perfect 21lb 7oz common. The last night was another cold one, leaving us to pack up frost covered tackle, but still Kev managed to slip a low 20lb common over the cord of his NSR an hour before rods were in.

What's left to say that's not already been said? Well, not much... We feel there aren't many lakes out there that offer such a comprehensive French carp fishing holiday package to suit all anglers, and we can see why it's already becoming extremely popular. The fishing is first class, and the amenities and surroundings are second to none, so the whole experience is worth every penny. We would like to say thank you to Daniel and Jodie for the opportunity to come back and experience it all over again.

If you would like the full details of Le Queroy please visit their website [www.lequeroyfishing.com](http://www.lequeroyfishing.com) or if you would like Big Carp Promotions to showcase your fishery or product please get in contact via Facebook or Twitter. We would also like to thank our sponsors Evolution Carp Tackle, Galaxy Baits, Deception Angling, Deep Blue Particles and Castaway PVA. Till next time guys, and from the Big Carp Promo crew, tight lines. ■

**Paul Wood with his Lake Elba 42lb mirror.**







# FISHING RESORT



[https://naxiresa.inaxel.com/etape1-criteres.php?  
compte=iktus&lang=2](https://naxiresa.inaxel.com/etape1-criteres.php?compte=iktus&lang=2)



# Spotted Fin Something New is Coming

By Rob Maylin

I count myself very lucky to have been involved with Spotted Fin from the outset. My early meetings with the amiable Catherine and Pele left me in no doubt that big things were on the horizon. At this time, back in the summer of 2015, concepts had only just been born. The brand, the logo and the products were still just ideas on paper.

So, when last week the postman delivered a huge box of goodies from Spotted Fin I was excited to say the least. On opening, I was not disappointed. Firstly the packaging speaks volumes; they say in the case of food



that the eye tastes before the mouth, and to me it's a similar concept to packaging. It looks class, it sends a message and to me as a customer it gives me confidence. The bait ingredients have been sourced to the highest possible grade. The ingredients ooze quality; the additives are incredible.

Take my advice and check out the Liquid Salmon and Tuna, the Hemp

and Salmon oils remind me of the ones I had at Savay, which tore those Colne Valley lakes apart. Something new is coming alright, and there isn't going to be a carp angler in the country that doesn't give it a try. I for one can't wait to get it on the bank.

Interesting facts about Spotted Fin that you didn't know:

1) They will not only be selling their products online to retail customers but a number of our products from bait to terminal tackle will be coming to you via tackle shops also over the course of this year. Spotted Fin will cater for trade enquiries for ingredi-







ents from fishmeals to fluoro dyes, from peanut meal to milk protein powders from the UK to Europe when we launch on 21st March.

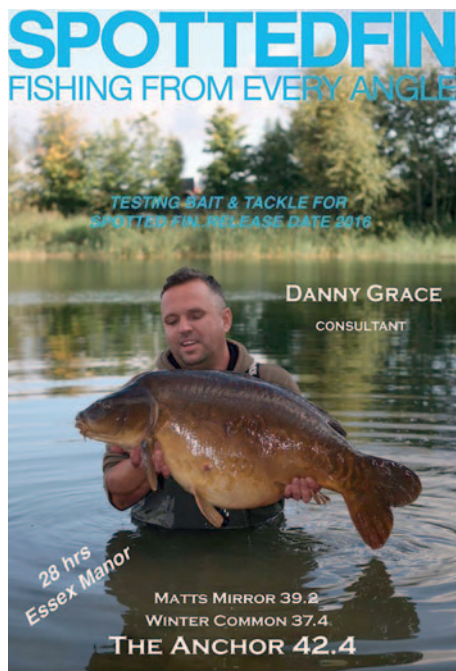
2) Spotted Fin is registered and audited by the Government's Animal and Plant Health Agency with regards use of animal byproducts – this is a requirement of all bait companies and others, using and selling animal byproducts such as fishmeals, milk powders and our new "Liquid Fish" range. This means they have to be sure and have proof that they know where a product comes from, what its use is, and they have to be able to

track that product right through the retail chain to you! So when they say their Green Lipped Mussel Extract is farmed in the Marlborough Sounds of New Zealand and was produced for pharmaceutical use in health foods before it reached them, and that they can trace every gram and ounce of that product in their baits to you... Well, you can be sure they know what we are talking about... Can your bait company tell you that?



Its clear that Spotted Fin mean business and are here to stay, so keep an eye out in Big Carp over the coming year for catch reports, competitions, product news and reviews.

Spotted Fin, fishing from every angle. ■







20lb 5oz common caught last winter on Oak Lake.



20lb common caught by Shane Hawkes in February 2015.

## Big Carp Promotions

**February 2016 Lake Diary – Oak Lakes Fisheries, Burnham Road, Southminster, Essex, CM0 7BJ**



**I**t's been a bit of a slow month on the fish front this February on Pipe Lake with only a few carp coming out in total, which has left us with only the one session to report on. Oak Lake on the other hand has been fishing much better, with quite a few good carp landed. Sadly though the anglers of Oak Lake were not feeling too generous with their pictures, and none were sent into the fishery in time for this diary page; in fact none have been sent in at all!

But moving on from that and starting with Pipe Lake's catch report for February, regular Mark Sinclair pictured with a carp that was caught and weighed, which was only a touch

under 30lbs, and at 29lb 10oz it was a great start to the session. His session was not over there though, and it was also backed up by a lovely mint 16lb winter common to make the trip even more rewarding. Well done, mate, and top angling.

So with this catch report now out of the way for this diary page, we thought it would be a good idea to show you guys and girls just what Oak Lake has to offer when you do come to fish here. The fishery has kindly supplied pics of a few cracking carp caught by members of the public last year at around the same time and

over the winter of 2015.

Thanks for reading, and hopefully there will be plenty more to report on in March with the cold weather conditions warming up and bringing out more anglers from hibernation. Fingers crossed the spring warmer weather is just round the corner. 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

### OAK LAKES FISHERIES SOUTHMINSTER



A cracking Oak Lake 25 pounder from 2015.

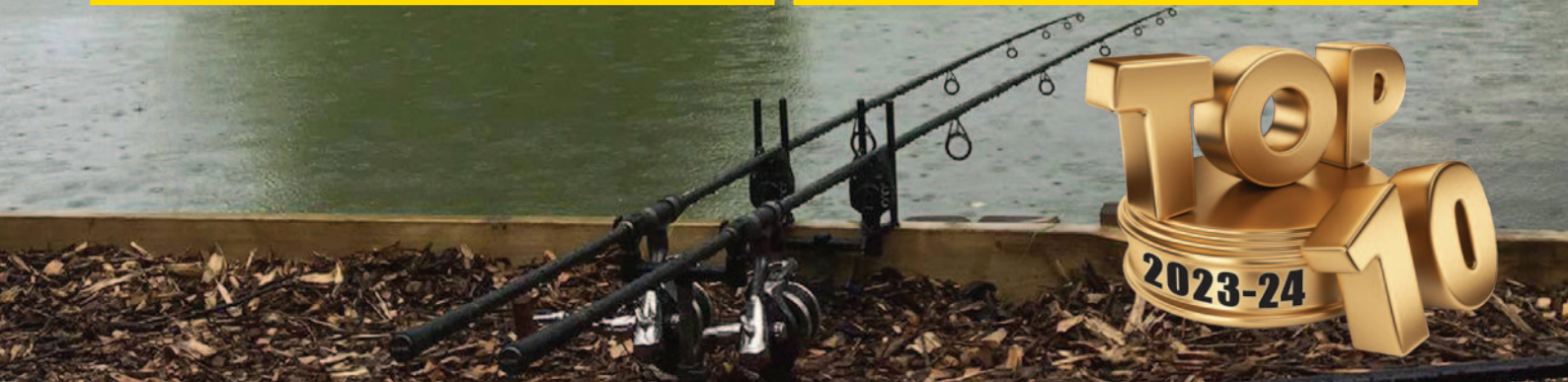


Mark Sinclair with his cracking 29lb 10oz mirror.



# 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



# The Carp That Time Forgot

By Josh Myatt

## The first encounter

**I**t's a place steeped in rumours of pike the size of crocodiles, carp as big as the divers and 60lb-plus commons seen swimming around, or so everyone says. Sitting in the heart of the West Midlands, it has an unknown stock, untold tales and 420 acres of water. It's a place not known by many, few talk of what's known and even fewer have tried to tame what's in there.

But, I was just a boy when carp fishing took hold of me. I'd have never seen myself fishing this place. Although six seasons in and 212 nights later, I've got my tale to tell, although this tale has the proof, the pictures, the highs and the lows of what fishing for the unknown can do to you. I've chosen my words very carefully about this place to keep the location quiet; these carp have been left alone for a very, very long time, and I hope they are left peacefully. Once you've been here and fished it you respect the place a lot. It has an odd feel to the place; the lake seems to make you feel unwelcome on its land. I imagine some will figure it out, but very few will try...

Let's go back to October 2011... It's a lake like no other in size. It was daunting to look at, let alone fish. I'd been working locally, and at the time I didn't drive, so walking past here twice a day for the previous three months I'd always stop off for a nose around the pier, which always looked like it could hold a fish or two. One mild October evening I was doing my usual walk along the dam wall on the way back from work when out the corner of my eye I saw something roll, and not bird life, I was sure. I decided to hang around, as up until now I'd not seen a fish in the lake. It had never really interested me; I was more than happy with the canal fish I was catching at the time. After a quick cig, I'd

gathered it was properly a grebe. Just as I stood up to leave, directly in front of me a fish came crashing out, and not just any fish – a mirror, and no more than 25 yards in front of me. After that, it was a short dash back to grab some rods – why not take the opportunity? I'd probably never find the fish again.

I returned no more than half an hour later, out of breath, sweating and panting. I'd had my rods set up from my last session. Unsure if the fish were still there, I decided to flick a chod to the area and scattered a handful of bait over the top. As I went about setting the other rod, it was off. I soon landed a small ghost koi of around 4lb, but I didn't weight him. Amazed by my capture, I snapped a quick picture and returned it quickly before anyone came. Shortly after a bloke popped by, asking if I'd caught anything. I was unsure what to say, as I'd always been pretty open about my captures in the past, but I simply replied with, "Just a jack, mate," as I'd heard there were some pike in there. The session ended a few hours later, and no fish had shown. They must

have moved from the area.

As the winter took hold, that little ghostie kept me thinking about fishing in the summer, or was this huge expanse of water just too much? The summer soon came around. I'd been in touch with the lake, although I hadn't seen anything. The months passed with still no signs of fish even though I was walking every few days. I'd somewhat forgotten about the place, until one summer's evening on the 25th June. I'd decided to detour through the pit to get to a lake that conjoins through a causeway after hearing some fish had been caught on floaters up to low twenties on the small pit.

## The first big one

As I was walking through the back end of the huge pit, I noticed something reflecting the sun in a weedbed around 40 yards out in the back boating bay. As I was standing staring I was convinced it was a fish's back, but it was hard to tell through the dense weed. I saw an opportunity and decided to start trickling mixers onto the light breeze. Around an hour







passed before I saw any movement when a common around the low twenty mark came from the weedbed and promptly took three floaters. After nosing around them for five minutes or so, trying to figure out what they were, he soon returned to the weedbed. I'd started to run out of mixers, so in true style I decided to retrieve the mixers that had drifted over to the other side of the bay.

As I approached the water's edge to gather the mixers I could hear a "slurping" sound coming from under a nearby tree. I edged in for a closer look, and a pair of white lips could be seen sucking mixers under. It was clearly a big fish in the gin clear water, but I all I could see was a huge grey shadow that belonged to an old leathery mirror. At this moment in time I'd never seen a forty, but this fish was clearly of this size. As I stared at this huge creature it felt like time had stood still, and I realised that I'd discovered a very rare thing, a very large unknown fish. After daydreaming for what felt like an age, I realised I'd best get the rod. I slowly crept up the bank, grabbing my rod and net, and I carefully and quietly snuck back into position, realising the fish had

moved.

I scanned that water and soon found her with the common I'd seen earlier. The rest couldn't have turned out any better. The common veered of to the left taking mixers, and the mirror carried on to the right, hammering the mixers and taking every one in her path. I moved to the next hole in the trees and flicked my mixers just a few feet from the fish on the edge of a weedbed. The trap was set it, and was only a matter of time... I was fixated on the fish taking mixers, watching her getting closer and knowing in a few seconds I would have my chance. All of a sudden I felt an almighty pull on the rod, and the water exploded next to the weedbed. I watched the large mirror spook off, leaving a huge vortex of water. My chance had gone; I'd not been watching my mixers and had missed what had taken my bait, but I was pretty sure it was the common I'd seen in the bay. For some reason I felt cheated, and the fish I was attached to had gone deep into the weedbed with the clutch still ticking away. It was obvious the fish was still on, and trying all angles to free the fish, I was not left with much choice, what with

only having 10lb line and a size 12 hook it was either pull and hope or go in after her.

Luckily the bay is quite shallow, around 4ft for quite a distance from the bank, so I stripped down and headed in to the thick weed. After a few minutes the line was free, and I was covered in silkweed and attached to an angry carp. I can still remember the sight to this day as a slate grey mirror came swimming past my legs with my mixers hanging out of the top of its lip. I wasn't aware this fish was in the area; I'd been so fixed on the large mirror I'd missed seeing anything else. It looked a half decent fish, and if I were to guess I would have said high twenties, and after three attempts she went into the net. I walked back to the shore very wet but very happy. It wasn't until I lifted the fish and realised it was actually a lot bigger than I first thought. She tipped the scales at 30lb 14oz, my first 30, and what a place to catch it from.

It was now 10.30pm, and I'd been there for hours without realising. One thing about this place is that time just seems to vanish, and you're leaving before you realise it. At the time I had a Blackberry phone, and although it had died I couldn't make the calls for pictures. So I grabbed the Canon and made do with some self-takes. Dusk was upon me when I slipped her back. It's a day in my angling I'll never forget, and it's also the day I got obsessed with the place – a huge mirror that's most likely never been caught before and an unknown 30 that I'd just caught – what else could it hold?

After that capture I kept in touch with the lake a lot that summer, baiting as much as I could afford at the age of 18. The summer turned to winter, and all over those months I saw one fish, a very long common that I would have estimated at around mid-30 – it was hard to tell due to it being extremely long. I'd managed to keep it in the bay for two days, watching it eat tigers under a small bush that had around 2ft of water underneath it. But when the time come to fish, it never showed up. I guess that's just the way it goes sometimes.

## The next bite

The next year passed without any luck, but if I'm truthful, I didn't spend



much time down there what with having a girlfriend at the time and experiencing the joys of being 18. My fishing took a huge step back, so there wasn't a lot to report fishing-wise that year.

April 2014 was the next visit... I'd decided to go for a day session, this time on the opposite side of the lake. I was having a good run of fish elsewhere, so I decided to try my luck on the pit, and I opted to fish near the large island. Two baits were flicked out into some deep water, and it was a miserably wet and windy day. After several hours of being there, my right hand rod signalled a fast take. I could tell the fish wasn't huge, but it put up an incredible account of itself, even managing to wrap me up in a nearby snag. So the trousers came off, and in I went. The water was cold that day, I can tell you that! I soon netted a small common of 12lb, a lovely dark fish, and I rang a friend to come and do the pictures. Mick was soon at the lake, out of breath from the huge walk around – he's getting old, bless him! We fired off a few snaps, and I decided to go home. I was freezing from being in the lake. The things you do for fish, eh?

It was quite an interesting capture for me, maybe holding a clue to where they hold for the winter. It was information I would be adding to my fishing the next year. Quite a lot of blank nights followed that capture until one June evening I'd found a few fish holding up in a little indent on the lake. I'd dropped a bit of bait in and returned the next day to find that the spot had been demolished.

I kept baiting for around four days until I was able to fish the weekend. I'd told Mick about my find, and I was soon getting ready to leave. I arrived around an hour earlier than Mick, and I soon had the rods out and the spots primed with a helping of particles. I'd just finished setting up camp for the weekend, made a brew and took no more than a mouthful when the middle rod burst into life. I hadn't set the clutch or even set the bobbin, as the rod was only in for five minutes. The take I received was so savage it cracked my Neville at the bottom and started taking line from a very tight cutch. With my waders already on, I jumped into the lake and headed towards the fish, although by the time I'd got to the other side of the bay, the

fish had cut me off on a tree stump. Now there are rumours of large catfish in this lake, although I've never seen proof. I was thinking had I just hooked one due to the power of that fish, although wading back to my spot I could see that there were in fact four holes in the bed of bait where a group of carp had dropped onto it. I sulked under my brolly whilst I texted a few friends about my misfortune.

Shortly after putting the rods back on the spot, Wayne Dunn rang me about my loss. His words were pretty simple: "Get some heavier line, Josh, ya bloody numpty." A quick phone call later to a few friends, and I had a Chris bringing me some heavy gear down. When Chris and Mick had just turned up, I received a drop back, but the fish did a little more than make a small run and slipped the hook within the first few seconds of the fight. I wasn't my day, although having had two takes within two hours I was expecting another bite. This was not the case though, and all I saw was a small common around 4lb all weekend, and that was on the Sunday evening. I guess that's the beauty of big pits – the fish come and go that quickly it explains why bites are few and far apart. I had a lot of blank nights once again after losing the two fish. The bait wasn't going from my spots; the fish had just vanished. With such a low stock in so much water, it's not hard for them to disappear.

The year passed, and before I knew it we were in 2015, and once the warmer weather started I began baiting heavily. Walking the lake as much as I could, I'd managed to locate a few fish holding up near the causeway bank. I'd finally figured out their patrol route somewhat, and I was getting more knowledge of where they were on a regular basis. It had only taken me six seasons!

I'd done a few quick nights for nothing more than a few bleeps. Although I knew that bait was disappearing, it was just a matter of being there at the right time. These fish weren't exactly hard to catch; it was just finding them. May 19th saw me set for a three-night session on the pit. I'd arrived at the lake around 2pm after a quick few hours at work. I spent hours baiting and getting myself hidden out of the way, and I was ready for the anticipated bite that would reward me for my efforts and end my 13-month blank!

The first two days passed without any action apart from hearing a fish crash out over the spot on my second night. I was adamant that I was due a take, but the day passed slowly, and I was soon tucked up in the bag fast asleep. Around 1:05am the left hand rod signalled a one-toner, and a mad scramble out of the brolly began, while trying to squeeze myself into my chesties (anyone who's had to do this when you're in a rush will under-







# Coole Acres Fishery

Premier Cheshire Day Ticket Complex

Coole Lane • Nantwich • Cheshire

CW5 8AY



We have three well stocked lakes catering for anglers of all abilities and preference. Lodge pool, Spanner lake and our specimen lake, Fox, offer something for everyone.

- Carp up to 32lb and Catfish to 49lb 12oz.
- Café serving hot and cold food.
- Showers available for overnights.
- Designated car park for anglers located directly between lakes.
- Toilet block with male/female/disabled toilets at the car park.
- Disabled pegs at two coarse lakes and 12 bark chipped pegs available for overnighting at the specimen lake.



Visit us on Facebook

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

07899 735052

[cooleacresfishery1@gmail.com](mailto:cooleacresfishery1@gmail.com)





stand how hard it is!). I soon found myself chest deep in water fighting with a very angry carp. I could tell from the start it was a good fish. Deep, powerful lunges and a heavy weight attached to the rod saw me standing in the lake with everything silent, not even a breeze on the water. It was like a millpond; all you could hear was the occasional bit of wildlife making a sound in the distance and a whizzing clutch. The fish surfaced around 30 yards out, slapping its tail and ending the silence, with me half asleep, unaware of what I was attached to. I somehow felt it was the big mirror I'd not seen for a few years, the one I spotted in the back bay the day I landed the 30.

Soon enough, the fish was spitting out water near the net cord, and all I could see under the dim head torch was a massive pair of shoulders of a common. I took the fish back to my little hole in the trees and lay her down on the mat. She was huge definitely a new PB for me, although I had a funny happening with my Rubens... They was getting old and promptly broke on me whilst weighing this fish. They bottomed out at 40lb and made a horrible crunching sound, then jammed on 27lb 12oz after I tried to reset them and weight the fish again. I was a bit miffed, as I'd caught fish bigger than 27 and was aware that this was in fact a lot bigger. But it was late; I was tired so I decided to sack the fish up and text a few friends to see who could do the pictures in the morning. I sat tossing and turning in my bed every half an hour, checking the fish was okay, shattered and excited all at the same time.

After a night of broken sleep, the few I'd told about the lake all replied saying they were working. So I was left with only a few options: ask via social media site or crack of a few self-takes and keep everything quiet. I decided to do the self-take, as this was my secret, and I wasn't going to let some loudmouth shout about it.

As I was preparing to get ready for self-takes, my right hand rod that was down the margin tore off, which resulted in a little common I'd estimate at around 12lb. Just like buses, eh? Nothing for ages, then two at once. I took a few cracking pictures of the brace and slipped them back. Shortly after some breakfast I had to leave to help the missus with some of



her horsey stuff for the day.

I wasn't able to make it back down the lake to fish for a few weeks, although I kept in touch. I'd been managing a few overnights on a syndicate, and luckily enough managed to bag myself the big girl. This freed up some more time for the pit. Once again, summer turned into autumn, and I decided to leave the pit for another winter.

Due to how the weather has been in 2016, I found the winter pretty warm! A lot of fish were still getting caught around the country. I opted to start baiting once again back end of February. Although the weather had started to drop a bit chillier that month, the bait was in fact getting eaten. I'd opted to fish near where I landed the 12lb common two years before, baiting heavily with corn and pellet. I'd found the fish didn't have a massive response to boilies; they definitely preferred anything that was more natural, if you like. After all, with the amount of natural food and low stock (around 17 fish that I've seen and caught in 420 acres), why on earth would they want to eat boiled up bait that they have never seen before?

After a few weeks I'd plan to drop on for an overnights. I was working close, so it was an ideal spot to try for a quick bite and to have a little break from the maddening world. After all, that's why I go, not to catch every time, although it would nice. I simply feel that you cannot beat being outside enjoying the wilderness. But that's just me; it is my way of escaping.

## March the 4th

So it was seven years now, and I was still finding myself chasing the same two fish, the ones I like to call the Old Mirror and the Long Common. Funnily enough, this night was just like any other night, more or less, apart from the fact that I wasn't going to go. I was actually talking to a friend about the place, so I owe you for this, Rich! That made me get off my arse and drive up from Ellesmere to the lake, as I'd moved around 18 months back. So the pit was now an hour away. I told the missus I was off, and she gave me the all clear!

I arrived around 10pm, and a slow wind was pushing into the bay, which looked good for a bite, although the temperature was due to drop to





around two degrees overnight. The night passed quietly and quickly, and around 4:50am I awoke to some ducks spooking out in the edge in front of me. I decided to have a coffee and watch the water, as I would have to be up for half five anyway. Not long after making a brew the right hand rod signalled a one-toner. I've never felt power like it in a fish – massively long lunges, line ripping from the spool – and before I knew it the fish was 150-plus yards out. I was adamant it was a cat. The fish was keeping very low to the bottom, and I could feel every shelf as she went down, the line hitting old dead weedbeds and whatever else lay down in the depths of this pit.

I started to gain some line on the fish, and she was now around 60 yards in front of me. After what felt

like an age, she kited right towards some trees that are in the water – it was like a massive game of tug of war. She was so close the trees; I could hear her splashing around on the surface right next to them. All of a sudden I felt the line grinding, and the clutch started ticking again. She'd managed to get into the water forest. A mad panic saw me pumping the rod as hard as I could, but it was no use – the line was around something. The only option I could think of was to change the line angle. I could wade out due to there being a silt channel that was 12ft deep in front of me where I'd managed to receive the take from.

I'd managed to climb back onto the bank where the causeway tunnel entrances are. It's the highest point around that area of the lake. With one hard pull, the line pinged off a branch that was sticking out of the water, and I was back in contact with the fish. The rest happened all pretty quickly... The fish swam toward me, and I'd got down to the water's edge and made my way out as far as I could to be ready with the net. Still adamant it was a catfish, I didn't really know how I was going to handle it on my own. The wind was hammering in my face at this point, waves splashing up me and freezing cold water entering the top of my chesties – a typical big pit battle. To my shock, this huge mouth appeared out of the water close to the net, not of a catfish, but of a carp, and a bloody big one at that.

Still unaware of what I had sitting in my landing net, I made my way back to shore. I was exhausted; I

found myself sitting in the edge with this huge fish sat in between my legs. I flicked the headtorch on, fully expecting to see it was the mirror I've been chasing, as it's the only fish I'd seen of that size in the lake. To my surprise as the light hit it, I got a golden reflection of a huge common. I believe this fish to be the Long Common I'd seen four years back from the other end of the lake!

This fish was huge in length and width; it was almost as long as my leg. As I sat there, I realised something – the time! I was due to leave for work – it was almost 6am! I'd been fighting this fish for close to 40 minutes! I had no choice but to get the camera out and fire off a load of self-takes as quickly as I could. I got a handful of decent pictures in the mad panic, and I can also say self-takes with a fish of that size is extremely hard to do. Saying that, I'm only 5ft 9ins and ten-and-a-half stone. I'd recently brought some digital scales a few months back, as my plan for this year was to tackle some waters with some very large fish in. It's a good job really, as on the scales she went 49lb 12oz of uncaught, unknown common carp. It was an emotional moment – one I wish I could have shared with a few friends. But after all, fishing isn't everything, and since I am providing for my girlfriend and me, it's not worth my job being late over a fish. I slipped her back and headed back to the van, soaking wet, stinking of fish slime and freezing cold. But I can tell you one thing – I was happy, yet still in a massive state of shock. I didn't tell anyone until I'd finished work. A few happy phone calls were made, and some people were really made up for me, as they knew how much time and dedication I've spent on there. I have missed some of the story out about the battering winds, stags chasing me into the water, falling in and whatever else... This place really has tested me to my limits.

It's a shame a few locals have been saying other stuff. It brings you back to the realisation that carp fishing is just full of jealousy and bitchiness. I think this will be the last thing I publicise, as I don't usually.

So it's now 7:30pm on the 8th April 2016, and I'm just getting ready for another session on the pit. Let's see if I can find this mirror.

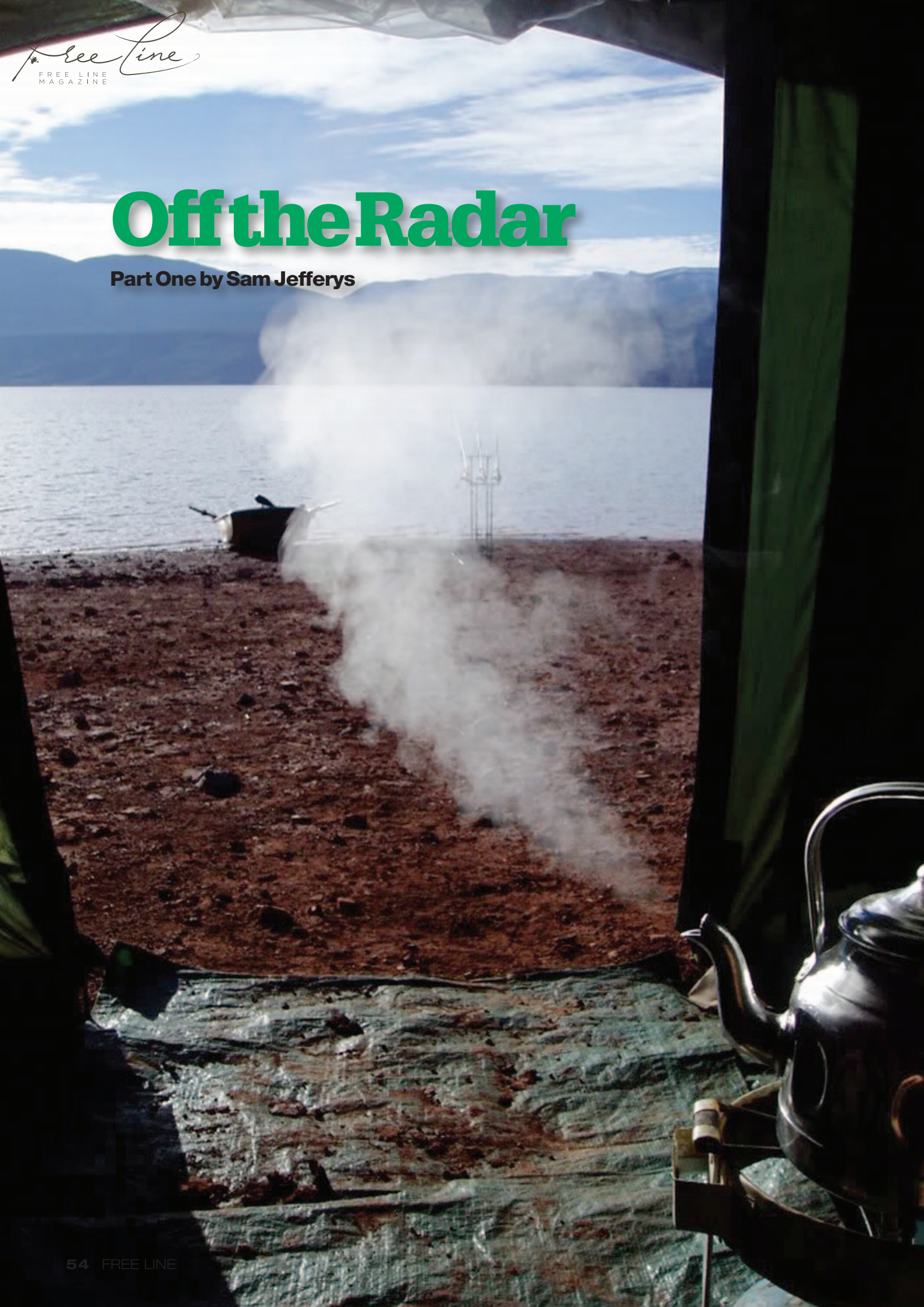
For now, be lucky, Josh. ■





# Off the Radar

Part One by Sam Jefferys





## Intro

**I**t's a mild, damp drizzly November night on the park; distant echoes of police sirens hurtling through the local streets, occasionally drowned out by the industrial, rumbling clanks and clatters of a passing freight train along the nearby Thames link are a constant reminder of the metropolitan sprawl that surrounds this little fragment of water set within the grounds of an inner city London Park.

The concrete jungle that encompasses this urban oasis, like an island of rural isolation, lost in time with its acres of ancient rough grass and moorland, interspersed with wild woods and equally ancient lakes, provides a great escape from the din and clamour of the city.

My attention is suddenly drawn to the commotion of a park regular making his way up the margins to where I was set up for the night... I light up a smoke, and sit in bemusement at the situation I yet again watch before me. For whatever reason, and I must confess I had never stopped to ask him why, the chap making his way towards me is in fact swimming. But not only is he swimming fully clothed at 3am in late November, no, this nutter swims imitating the loud calls of a duck! "QUACK QUACK," he chants, paddling along!

Perhaps the extreme experimental



efforts of an overly keen twitcher, I once reasoned, but in reality, this guy, whom I've named Daffy, still splashing and quacking his way slowly towards me, is just one of an ever

increasing band of the abnormal and utterly bizarre nocturnal oddballs that happen to just frequent the park by night.

Accidentally hooking Daffy is something I'd rather not experience, as it would probably freak the hell out of the two of us. So with that in mind the lines are soon slackened and News switched off to avoid any risk of alerting him to my presence.

I stand out of sight in the dark silence and ponder my sanity for fishing this park, as Daffy now paddles through my swim. Followed by the occasional 'quack quack', he soon passes, and off he swims into the night. "Welcome to London park carping," I chuckle to myself, and turn to a cold beer to make sense of it all. After all, had he seen me standing there fishing in the cold, he may question my sanity, but c'est la vie I guess, whatever rocks your boat...

The following is an account and reminiscences of time spent targeting carp within my home area in Central London. I'd dreamt as a kid of living in the countryside where fishing was







more accessible, but as the years have flown by, I now regard myself as being in prime carp land, right here bang in the centre of London... We have carp, BIG carp, in areas that most would find unbelievable, and these can be found with a bit of an under the radar approach to fishing

and a bit of background graft...

As a youngster, mad keen on fishing since the day my granddad took me as a wee nipper to some amazing spots in Cape Town, South Africa and taught me all he knew. Water, and more importantly the fish that swam below the surfaces of any patch or

flow of water, became an obsession, an obsession that has grown strong and stronger, as I, well, grow older and older!

Growing up a kid keen on fishing in London was tough; neither of my folks were anglers, and places to fish that were safe were few and far between for a ten-year-old boy, so I joined an East London fishing club.

Walking into the club's bus one dark winter's morning at 4am is a memory I'll never forget. The old smoky, dark bus was filled with proper old school East End characters whose faces I could only just make out as I coyly strained to glimpse through the flickering lights of cigarette cherries, lighters and the occasional lantern that highlighted the sparkles of gold tooth fillings that belonged to my new east London Reggie and Ronnie piscatorial family.

They sat mostly playing poker; bottles of whisky sat glittering, and the smell of cigar smoke drifted around this unusual setting for a ten-year-old. The older lot were at the back and the younger lot, who'd mostly been







**Fine quality fishing tackle  
since 1857**

[www.reubenheaton.com](http://www.reubenheaton.com)

For more on Reuben Heaton, Sportscale & RH brands  
call 01455 293000 or email [info@reubenheaton.com](mailto:info@reubenheaton.com)

Join Reuben Heaton on Facebook for all our latest news

**REUBENHEATON**



**EAGLE CLAW**  
**TROKAR**



**Exclusive distributors for eagle claw  
brands in the UK and Ireland**





up all night raving, sat snoring away recovering at the front, and then there was me, the little nipper sat with the driver wondering where my dad had just dropped me off and where we'd end up fishing that day...

The club was truly amazing; a lot of the older anglers took me under their wings and taught me the true essence and art of fishing! Years and years of fishing experience sat in that bus each Sunday, and over the five years I was with them, I grew into a little angler who had been fortunate to learn from some wise old fishermen, passing down tricks from generation to generation...

How is all this relevant to a carp book? Well, I feel the importance of learning the art of fishing is something that sadly gets passed over these days as newcomers to the sport go straight into carp fishing without a lot of background knowledge just learnt through trial and error as a kid. The very waters I cut my teeth on as a kid, the inner city canals, the pea-soup urban stretches of river etc., are now, all these years later, where I'm back, sitting and targeting the elusive carp I'd once only heard tales of as a kid! That time in my life was special, and as I sit now on the very same canals, a devoted carper, I remember the old

faces of the past, like ghosts that are still there present on the canal banks with me – ghosts of those who once would patiently stand there, teaching me the magic of roach on the bread punch, or perch on the worm. It's those early fishing experiences that I feel have helped me in recent years to be the carper I am now... It's an appreciation of fishing as a whole, that is important, not just carp.

So years later, as my fishing fascination grew, the roach poles, peacock quills, wicker basket, bread punch and keep nets were all left in the loft, and armed now with Optonics and boilies, my London carp fishing exploits were born...

## London Park

After a number of years on London parks, I focussed on one particular park lake known to locals as the





Swimmer, so named as it's used as an open air natural swimming pool where intrepid Londoners can swim amongst moorhens, snapping terrapins and coots... even a python was once found. Roughly five acres in size with a stock of around 30 carp, it's a water quite unlike any other I'd chosen to focus on in the past. Swimmers, armies of dogs, drunks, junkies, joggers, tree huggers, Bill Oddies, religious cults, human ducks and George Michael, this park had them all lurking around. Learning to fish alongside and share the park with this lot took considerable determination and patience! In spite of the obvious disturbances, the lake held some wonderful old carp, which justified the effort it required to fish...

It was early May, and whilst out dragging my girlfriend and dog around yet another lake, I came across a group of three carp, only inches from the bank, devouring the odd sinking flakes of bread that had been deposited for the thriving army of birds that had congregated to dine and watched by an equally big army of mums, prams and screaming kids. I was surprised at the size of the one fish, an old lumpy warrior of a mirror, a fish that I'd easily place in the upper



30s or low 40s. Sizeably smaller, yet equally stunning, the other two commons sat there side by side soaking up the warmth of that early spring sun. My mind instantly went into a 'carpy overdrive', and it was, within these few moments, that I decided I'd take a closer look at the swimming pond... "What else did it contain?" I mused. Within a split second a scruffy airborne mutt came leaping past me, splosh, straight into the drink he went, fleeing ducks darting in every

direction to escape the sudden commotion of the doggy paddling hound. Needless to say the big mirror and the two commons were off sharpish... but at least I knew they were there.

As the season neared, and through regular sightings, I'd formulated a rough idea of what the lake held, and the 16th soon arrived. I hadn't been able to make it down to the park for the few days prior to the start, but my margin spots had been primed with a few big hits of particle the week







before. All was ready, and I felt confident of at least a few London park fish! On my arrival, I felt my heart sink. The lake was rammed; it appeared that every Tom, Dick and Harry, his missus, her granny and the dog had decided to set up camp. A tent of all colours, shapes and sizes had been erected with BBQs and radio on full blast at every turn – the party was in full flow! It felt more like a scene from Glastonbury than the magical eve of a new fishing season! I squeezed in along the banks of tents for that first night and sat back to watch as an entourage of leads, lines and tons of bait bombard the water from every angle; it was indeed a madhouse.

Only a small area of the lake is fishable, this consisting of just two banks of this rectangular lake with the other two banks and the main body of water out of bounds and unfishable! This unfishable area of the lake is referred to as the swimming pool. The two featureless fishable banks are sectioned off with ropes with small floating buoys acting as boundaries to mark out the designated perimeters of the swimmable area. The distance from the bank to these boundary ropes is no more than a short cast of 30m or so. Restrictions due to these roped-off boundaries are hugely frustrating, leaving the angler a very small limited strip of water to fish with the rest of the lake now designated solely to swimming.

It also seemed some used the London park as a halfway house or camp-

site. Law has it that unless you are a fisherman, camping in any London park is forbidden, and as fishing is free in the park, a quick trip to Argos for a cheap rod, tent and roll mat, you can have a temporary London pad with a lakeside view, natural swimming pool and hot showers at no charge, which, considering London's insane property prices, ain't a bad option really! Needless to say the more popular swims were literally occupied for months on end... It also became apparent that the fish had seen it all before and were not going to throw themselves at the hundreds of blatantly obvious rigs hurled in the general vicinity of the boundary ropes. Not once did I see a fish in the margins after that first opening night, and with lines in the water 24/7 for

months on end, it came as no surprise that the fish moved out into the main unfishable swimming pool area where they would remain until the following close season. Highly frustrating this was to the lads who sat staring at motionless buzzers along the crowded banks of the lifeless fishing zones!

One summer's eve, I sat there and watched the last of the day's swimmers vacate the pond. Out came the lifeguards to the sounds of the swimming pool being shut for the night, and the usual carp display soon followed, with ten or so shows over the next half hour, all of course in the safe out of bounds unfishable swimming pool!

At 3am, I woke to the sound of the distant diving board springing and peered out of the bag to catch sight of some 'diehard' mid-flight as he hurled himself in for an early morning plunge. Startled squawking parakeets flew overhead, and on went the kettle. I lay there wondering what madness lay in store today on the park...

I could write a book alone on just the madness and strange goings-on of fishing the park. I'd experienced some poor geezer throw himself in the lake one evening, totally tripping on acid! It took five police in dinghies and eight hours of negotiation for them to talk him out of the pond where he'd been sitting clutching a buoy in 30ft of water, fully clothed, screaming out as his many hallucinations drifted in and out of his distressed and drug induced imagination. Every time the cops neared the fella, he shat himself as the acid took





LIMITED EDITION • SIGNED AND NUMBERED

# *Legendary Carp Paintings*



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



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





another turn for the worse! I've no idea what he was seeing in that boat, but I'd imagine something along the lines of a dinghy with piggies floating towards him! I felt for the guy, but man, it was hilarious to watch...

By night it was a complete nut-house. I've seen a Hasidic Jewish family take a casual family stroll at 3am with four kids and two babies in a pram, just having a walk! I've seen a Nigerian taxi driver drive past at midnight in midwinter asking for directions. How he ended up driving through the park or even how he got in there with a car I'll never know, but he looked bloody lost! Then there was the human swimming duck, quacking

away passing through my swim each night, and people falling out of trees after a sudden urge or fetish to have sex 40ft up a tree!

Another night, I'd witnessed a north African cult sacrifice a goat... I'd had a smoke myself and was feeling pretty spacey when this lot turned up, chanting away, wearing pretty far out robes, as little Billy the goat sat roped to a tree. As I peered from behind a tree, I started to wish I'd never come fishing that night, as by the time the shrieks of the poor furry chap were echoing over the pond there was a trail of boilies and pellet, where I'd done a last minute runner... The park, to put it mildly, was a

colourful place!

One evening whilst positioning a rod tight to the ropes, a misjudged cast went flying way past the ropes, and I was snagged... Not wanting to leave a rig and trailing line on swimmers' ropes, I decided to take the short swim to retrieve it. With the baitrunner set on the bank, I made my way to the snagged rig, and with the rig eventually untangled and in hand, I decided to swim further out, taking the rig under the rope and out into the main swimming pond, where it was dropped by hand in an area I'd noted seeing fish move. Back on dry land and with a fairly good idea where I'd swum the rig out to, a kilo of bait was spread around the general area. At around 2am, the rod fished out in the swimming pool produced a 30lb common, the first fish to have come out in almost a month! By the following morning I had a clear vision of where I'd go from here.

With the fishing gear left at home, I arrived the next week armed with an old luminous neon yellow diving mask, a bright blue kid's snorkel and some cheap red flippers all brought back from some Greek holiday. Standing at the water's edge of a London duck pond in all this gear made for a few laughs, and to be fair I did look a complete Wally! It was an eye-opening experience dropping below the surface and taking a real look into what we otherwise just picture in our mind's eye. Very little of the lake's topography was how I'd imagined it to be. I had noted some huge blood-worm beds and craters that would appear in various areas. There was also a noticeable rise in temperature from one patch of water to the next; it was all petty fascinating to see.

After a few trips with the diving gear, I'd been able to locate a few areas I felt carp were visiting, and before each swim I would fill a small diver's mesh bag with a few handfuls of bait to spread over the spots, diving down and checking them the following day and so on. I was getting quite into my aquatic observations, and after a few weeks I had to remind myself why I'd taken to the water in the first place – better get those rods out! In order to locate the spots each session, I'd positioned two home-made bright orange Fruit Shoot drink markers anchored to rocks with 4lb line. I'd set these markers to sit about





a foot or two under the surface so I could locate them as I swam over the general area. The lifeguards would never know they were there, so they could be left in position...

Fishing just overnights, the procedure each trip was to deliberately overcast the boundary ropes from the bank with all three rods, leaving the clutch loose to take line, then I took a quick stroll round to the swimming pool entrance with a mesh diving bag of bait and diving mask. Once in the water, I'd swim out to the rigs left hanging on the ropes, taking them under the rope one by one and swimming them out to my sunken markers, followed by a handful of boilies to each rod. Job done, but believe me it was a bloody mission to start with!

Effort equals reward in this game, and I started to put a few fish on the bank. Maybe some would argue it's cheating; who knows? One rod in particular was producing fish each night, and soon I was fishing two rods on the one marker with great results. I knew my time was limited fishing in this way; the hassle and effort of swimming the baits out each night was taking its toll, and the water temps were dropping.

To finish this part to my story off, I went on to bank most of the lake's stock fishing this way. The big old lumpy mirror first went 38, then finally 40 on the second capture, with a few backup mid-30s and some stunning 20s! I felt I'd earned those fish. The challenges the Swimmer had thrown



at me had often had me questioning whether I could sustain the enthusiasm and drive to continue the pursuit. I'd felt there was just far more against me, and the window of opportunity was pretty much nonexistent, until that is, I took to the water! I learnt something on the Swimmer that has remained with me on all waters I now set foot on, and that is to look at things with an open mind, thinking outside the box to the norm of all else that is going on around you. I'm not necessarily suggesting one 'bends the rules' as I did, nor will I try to publicly condone it, but in carp fishing, a little edge can often just be that ability to go one step further than anyone else...

It was time to move on with my fishing. The years spent sharing bank space alongside the loonies of a London park, the dogs, swimmers, drunks and even the anglers that seemed to live on the banks, had been hard work! I would go as far as saying that I had built up a fear of fishing near any other angler. I just wanted peace, and it's this desire to fish alone that has shaped the path to all my fishing since – a path that has allowed me to make the most of my urban watery playground and all that it has to offer to a carper keen to search out the places most turn a blind eye to, which in most cities is more than you would imagine if you want to get out there and do a bit of homework and carp exploring.

## Morocco

Around this time, I had also developed a growing interest in foreign waters. The bigger continental waters had always fascinated me; some I had grown up reading about like Cassien, The Orient, Chanty etc. Others were just whispers; new wild waters were cropping up all over the place, and I was desperate to have a crack on such distant foreign carpy discoveries. Morocco was one place that had recently come on the scene. The very first images of those bars of gold, huge stunning commons and mirrors, carp I had never seen anything like, simply captivated me. I set off one year to find Bin El Ouidane, set high in the Moroccan Atlas Mountains. Travelling through Morocco was a weird and wonderful experience and a story







in itself... Sadly I never found the lake on that trip, although I was close.

By sheer luck, six months later, I had somehow managed to get a job working for the company running trips to Bin El Ouidane. I spent almost a year living on the banks of this incredible lake. 15,000 acres of just sheer natural beauty was my home, living in my bivvy for months on end on the banks of such an immense water. It felt like I was living on the moon; it was such an incredible, far out place with a terrain and climate that made the fishing one hell of a challenge.

It was my first taste of a big water, and the learning curve of adapting to fishing such depths and scale was terrifying at first, although I loved every second of it. My job was to locate carp to put our visiting clients on, and this meant drifting hundreds of acres of water each day while studying the sonar and the weather and then baiting areas once carp had been located! It was a job I found fascinating.

In between looking after the anglers that had ventured out from most European countries, but mainly the UK, I was able to fish myself. Words cannot come close to describing how magical I found the experience of fishing Bin El Ouidane! The sense of discovery, the anticipation of the pure unknown and the wildness and harshness of pioneering such a waters high up there at the top of the Atlas will forever remain one of the most challenging and exciting peri-



# 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.

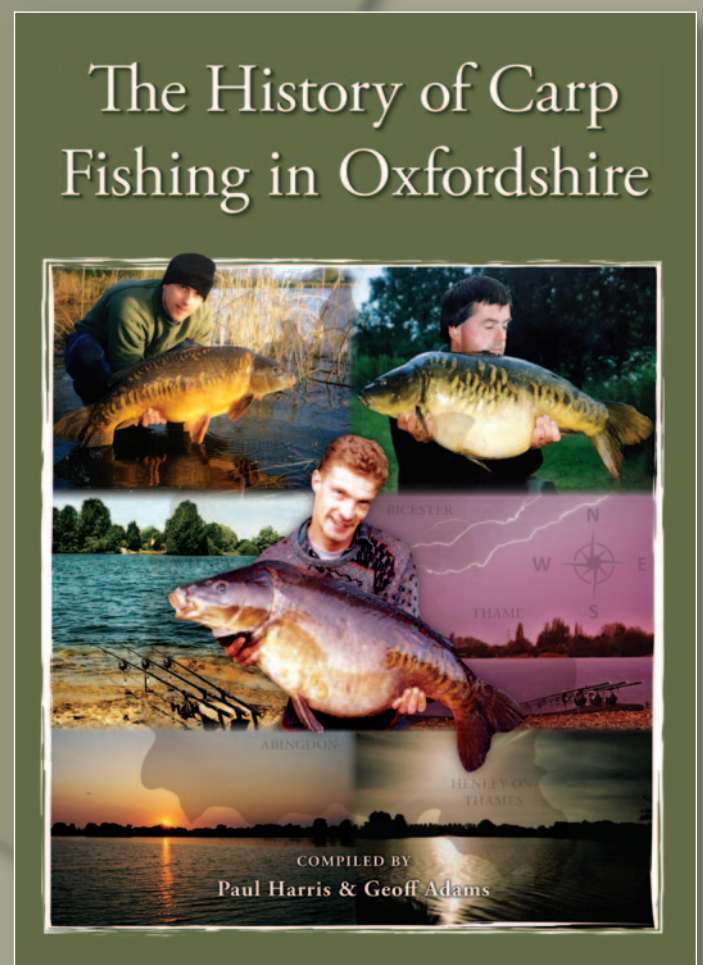
Nick Stansfield is a brilliant young Oxford carper who doesn't shout about his catches. We have two incredible chapters from him from two of the county's most iconic lakes, The Leisure Park and The Big S! Josh Chatfield has written a fantastic chapter which really gives you an insight into how fishing 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...



CARD: 01252 373658

PAYPAL: [www.bigcarpmagazine.co.uk](http://www.bigcarpmagazine.co.uk)

**A V A I L A B L E   N O W**





ods of my life thus far. Had the job not come to an end, I've no idea where I would be now, as after such prolonged time spent mostly in the total isolation of this natural world, I felt I may have been beginning to lose my marbles! I felt so in tune with the lake I was beginning to think I was some 'guru carp god' who could communicate with the fish that swam before me, reading the patterns of the fish and the natural elements that surrounded this immense lake... I felt and looked wild, and looking back I would not recommend living in a bivvy in the middle of nowhere for such lengths of time! However amazing it might be, I would have ended up a mountain yet!

## Walthamstow

Back in London, and keen to exercise my new skills of big water carp fishing, I discovered a few relatively unfished reservoirs, all within the Walthamstow complex... Walthamstow needs no introduction; it's where a lot of we London carpers end up at some time or another. It's a place that could captivate and hold an angler's attention for years. The two lakes that appealed to me were the big, low stock, windswept reservoirs that contained a handful of old original Stow fish, which had been left behind by the fishing crowds as the stocks had declined. It was the history behind these wonderful remaining old Stow fish that captivated me. These fish are like ancient prehistoric warriors, scarred and hardy with

deep, dark, chestnut tones, just special in every way. The harshness of some of the exposed, windswept reservoirs can be seen in these fish; they've been around some time, seen it all before, been bashed around and moved from res to res, some escaping the poachers who have shifted a number of them, but the small stock that still remained on these two reservoirs seem to have scars that tell a story. They are real old characters, older than the hills...

The first reservoir I concentrated on was 400-plus acres, split into two sections and joined by an underground tunnel, which made fish location pretty tricky, as at any given time the fish could be in one reservoir or the other depending on whether they'd

moved through this tunnel or not. Unable to legally fish this reservoir, I'd purchased a twitcher's license so as to be able to get a foot on the water by day, and an idea as to what it still contained whilst obviously keen to pursue my interest in birds...?! Anyone who has guested waters by night with restricted access by day will know the troubles and efforts in putting together any form of a baiting campaign, which, when faced with low stock and 400 acres is paramount! I spent the best part of March through to July fishing mobile under the cover of darkness, walking miles each night along featureless banks just hoping to stumble upon the immense fish I had seen on my twitching travels... I would occasionally find them, but having been left undisturbed for years, the second the leads went out they'd be 200 acres away, sharpish! It was exhausting work.

The few fish I had the pleasure of landing were taken from the only area of the two reservoirs that had any real form of a structural feature. This area I fished over a two-week period in a depth of 20ft, pouring buckets of maize and hemp onto a dark, hard concrete-like bottom in an attempt to hold the small stock just for a day or two. This was easier said than done, but amazingly it worked, if only for a short spell. I put everything into that two-week stint, as I knew my time on there would be coming to an end. A lucky few had started to be given permission by Thames Water to fish it, and trying to compete with those that







could fish and bait up by day and night, when you're having to jump fences, locate fish and get the rods out for a few hours, all by night and on 400 acres, just seemed madness, I loved the challenge, but it was hard graft...

The other reservoir was the West Warwick, once the jewel in the crown of the complex. It had seen some top anglers come and go over the years, but when I'd finally got up there, it had been left alone for some years with only one or two venturing up there.

I'd heard a lot about the Warwick whilst fishing the park lakes, but back then I felt it was out of my depth. I fell in Love with the Warwick; it was like the Walthamstow reservoir that had been forgotten in time! It was so rich in bird and aquatic life. The wonderful long-reeded margins of nesting birds and swallows, darting through the rustling reed stems that gently blew in the breeze were magical to sit and watch. I would use these reed stems to identify wind direction on most days.

It was a true escapism... The second I'd arrived on the Warwick, catching sight of rabbits darting in every direction as a train shot past and the sounds of the nearby urban jungle, I would feel totally alone there, like no one knew it was there lost in time, just a little patch of natural beauty that one could immerse oneself in for

the day, forgetting the rat race and the intensity of city life. It was like the world was shut out and time stopped when on the Warwick.

Again, feature-wise it was pretty much a windswept concrete reservoir, but the lengthy reed-lined margins and crystal clear waters made this a wonderful place to observe the few old fish that were left in there as they cruised through the margins like mythical dark ghostlike shadows. Like most waters I fish, I tend to spend a season just walking and

watching, choosing to formulate an idea of what's in there before I even consider wetting a line...

Similar to the previous reservoir, finding them by day was always possible; albeit after a few hundred laps, one would show and then bang, you'd be on them. I found not fishing during those early recce trips to be just as exciting, and testing one's watercraft felt like true hunting for this small stock of wild, wary old carp who'd experienced all the pressure over the years. The Warwick fish knew the dangers of passing figures dressed in carpy dull green clobber who'd be trying hard to hide on the exposed high banks when in reality they could see our every move. Most days I'd be crawling along the margins on my hands and knees, trying to keep out of the line of sight of the fish. The few twitchers and train-spotters who may have observed me on such occasions would have been forgiven for thinking I'd lost the plot!

I had singled out three to four fish that first season whilst walking the Warwick, fish I would have given my right leg to one day have my picture taken with. The one fish I had dearly wanted to find, was known as 2C's, a fish I'd seen a picture of Dave Levy with years back. This was just an immense carp in every way. I'd long dreamt of this fish; it was just stunning. The other was a dark common, darker than any common I'd ever set my eyes on, a fish of a lifetime. I put





that Warwick stock at around 25-30 fish, a fraction of what the stock once was. You also had a few fish that had gone in from the Lockwood, and again these Locky fish were equally special.

By the start of the new season, and having taken the time to observe the stock, I had a pretty realistic view of what was possible on the Warwick, which fish I'd seen accepting bait close in, fish that had held back away from beds of bait and also a few that just seemed totally preoccupied on naturals, ignoring everything I'd tried to tempt them with. One spring afternoon I'd found the dark common sat in the early spring sun just a foot from the bank. It sat there in the shallow, clear water taking the odd grain of corn that I had trickled in. I had to physically stop myself from jumping in after it because I wanted it so badly! That would have been a slightly unorthodox way of saying I had caught it, but hey... such is the obsession. It's so strong at times, it can turn our desperate carpy thoughts crazy, like Gollum and the golden ring... I'm glad to say though, I didn't go diving in after it!

The majority of the stock would move in small groups of four or five fish, but usually all within the same area, behaving much like one would expect them to on any featureless open water, i.e., moving on new warm winds etc... But it was the movements of the larger, more sought after old gems that I struggled to predict with any degree of accuracy. It appeared that where I would find the majority of fish, whether it was on a new wind or just mooching along the reedy margins, my targets would never be in the general vicinity or with the rest of the stock. With this in



mind, it got to the point that once I'd located the majority of the fish, I'd then have to reverse the situation and move to the opposite end of the reservoir to find my targets, where they'd often be found cruising along on their lonesome! It was a mental way of fishing, to be present on such a tricky water, where most struggle to locate

fish, but then having to move as far away from the stock as possible each time I'd located them, as I knew the fish I was after would never move with the others. In a sense it felt like I was moving intentionally off fish in order to single out the fish I had most wanted. This was the key pattern to my approach, but occasionally, however, the temptation to just fish for the bulk of the stock would take over, and I'd have a crack at them.

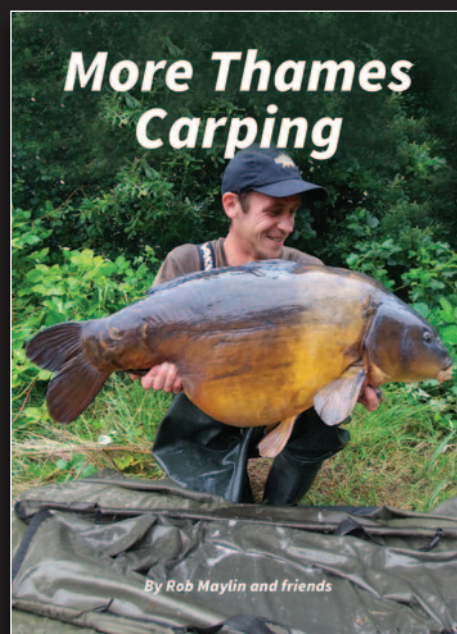
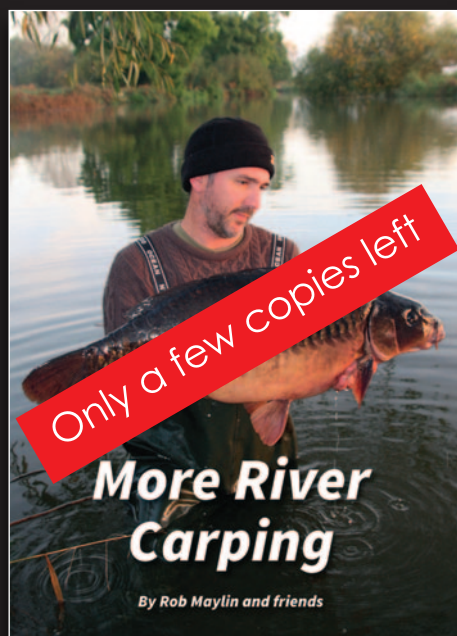
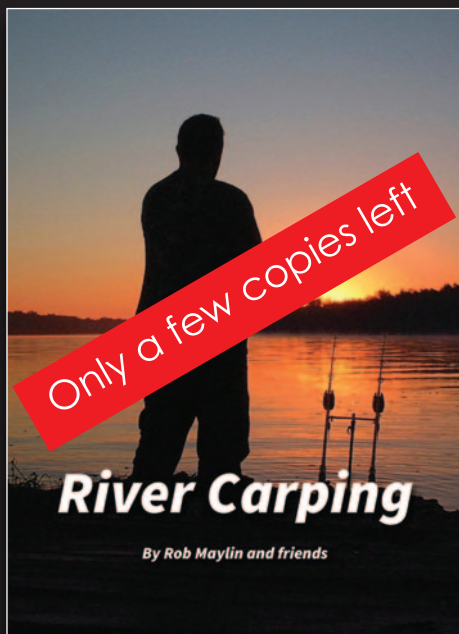
Like any urban water, the Warwick was no exception to odd happenings. One night that particularly sticks out in my mind was the night that marked the start of the Tottenham riots, which quickly were to spread throughout the city and then up and down the country. I was set up in a swim cut into the reeds with the train tracks running behind me. As evening approached and darkness fell over the Warwick, I'd noticed an almost orange glow coming from over the





# THE RIVER CARPING SERIES

*Tales and Technical, a must-read series for the river angler*



01252 373658

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





River Lea that ran alongside the Warwick, the general area where the police had shot down Mark Duggan.

That night was crazy; it felt like I was experiencing an apocalyptic London as I sat in what felt like the only safe place for miles of pure chaos. The constant surrounding sounds of police and fire brigade sirens, circling helicopters navigating through smoke-filled skies as a constant orange glow from the many-torched motors, shops etc lit up the whole area surrounding the Warwick all night. Without a phone or means of communication, I spent the whole night in complete bewilderment. I literally had no idea what was going on, but from where I was sitting that night, it felt like a war had just broken out, and I might be the sole survivor! And here I was just trying to fish. The fires were so close I'd considered bringing in the rods and going to find out what was happening! But if a war had broken out, I was going to enjoy that night's fishing and let them crack on.



At about 5am, and still sitting there watching smoke rising from the aftermath of whatever had been going on, I heard voices coming from the tracks behind me. There was a crew, 50-strong, clambering over the fences that separate the Warwick from the tracks. If this lot had been responsible

for the complete devastation I'd sat there watching all night, I was doomed. Now running along the bank approaching me, they got nearer. If these kids had wanted a scrap, it would have been game over considering the sheer number of them, most of whom were masked and hoodied up. Gripping a storm pole hidden under my unhooking mat, I prepared myself for the worst. I soon had 50 or so lads standing in my swim, tooled up and looking wired. They'd apparently done a runner along the tracks to avoid the roadblocks of the Old Bill. A few of the kids tried to give it the big man talk, but most of them were cool. They sat there in an almost interroga-

tive manner, trying to get some idea from me as to how to get off the reservoir. This I could help them with... happily!

Days on the Warwick were very much spent stalking. I'd locate my targets and try to predict their movements along the margins. For anyone who has not fished the Warwick, the margins on each long side are almost half a mile each way, so it was essential I got the correct course that each fish moved along bang on. Attempting to just drop bait on their head would be the kiss of death; those fish were some of the most line shy, lead shy, bait shy and generally spooky fish I'd ever observed. I had ruined many a chance, having walked all day trying to locate a few fish, only to spook them by placing a rig too near to them. Each trap had to be positioned perfectly. I used a snorkel and goggles to hand place the rigs, placing gravel and silkweed over the last





few feet of each rig in a bid to conceal the presence of what lay waiting. The use of diving goggles and a snorkel is something I've employed on a few waters in the past where it proved possible to do so.

The information one can gain from dropping below the surface is amazing. I found spots on the Warwick that were being frequented regularly, spots that I had been totally unaware of previously had I not taken a swim. Eventually I'd turn up, and depending on where I'd find my targets moving along those margins, I mapped out spots I'd found from sessions spent swimming with the dive mask. Clear areas amongst thick weed, alongside deep reed-lined margins that from the surface would appear to be just heavily weeded, but once below the top few feet, these weeded areas would open out into dinner table clear paths of glittering gravel. It was these spots I'd have baits waiting on, and sticking to this approach I was fortunate enough to bank the majority of my targets, as well as most of the remaining stock.

The dark common also eventually slipped up... I had been following her up and down a margin for days, and on this particular occasion, I'd predicted where she was heading. Knowing how line shy she was, I had wrapped a length of silkweed up the last few feet of my line and held it in place with a few blobs of putty, with the last few inches of the fluoro mainline near the hook left free. To this I simply attached a freelined flake of bread that sat a few inches off the bottom of my silkweed mainline, just feet from the bank. I was literally shaking as I lay on my belly and watched her cruise straight in and onto the white glistening bread that lay on the gravel, in only a few feet of water. Suddenly all hell broke loose, and the rest is history, that dark common was one fish I will forever cherish.

The Warwick became a little busier towards the end of my time on there. I guess I'd been spoilt, as very few had fished it during the years I'd been on there, but still suffering from the effects of my busy London park days, the second a few extra rods turned up on the Warwick all chasing a handful of fish, I was off! Peace and quiet and away from the crowds was a thing that had become a major aspect to



my fishing, and with that, I was on the hunt for a new adventure.

I had loved the challenges of a low stock, and the Warwick presented a hint of the unknown and mystery, something I was keen to keep when choosing my next water. The desire to fish alone on waters that were undiscovered had shaped my interest in carping to one that now had become even more specialised than just specialising in any carp alone is. Now I wanted to only target carp that came from venues that if at all possible had

never been fished – to fish for carp that with a bit of luck had never been hunted! By carping standards today that's a lot to ask, and with carp angling growing each year, you can be sure each patch of water at some stage or another has been fished.

As for the captions, I guess some could have them but most are self explanatory and weights wise, I try to not put up weights as I feel it encourages people to become obsessed with weights, but there are some big 40's mixed in with the photos. ■





# BIG CARP CLOTHING RANGE

## 3 DESIGNS AVAILABLE

In 9 different colours: Black, Grey Marl, Red, Navy, Bottle Green, White, Orange, Royal Blue and Brown

### "GEEZER"

**FRONT PRINT:** UNION JACK BC WITH "LET'S AVE IT!"

**BACK PRINT:** GEEZER GETS EVEN WITH THE TUFTIES,  
**DRAWN BY**  
**GLYN GOMMERSHALL**

**DESIGN**  
**A**

£32.95  
+£4.95\*

**DESIGN**  
**B**

£32.95  
+£4.95\*

### "SAVAY"

**FRONT PRINT:** UNION JACK BC WITH "SEX DRUGS AND CARP THAT ROLL"

**BACK PRINT:**  
SAVAY SCENE,  
**DRAWN BY**  
**JOHN HARRY**

£32.95  
+£4.95\*

### "LEGEND"

**FRONT PRINT:** UNION JACK BC WITH "WHERE LEGENDS ARE MADE"

**BACK PRINT:** LEGEND,  
**DRAWN BY LEN GURD WITH**  
"STAND CLEAR APPRENTICE LEGEND"

**DESIGN**  
**C**

Where  
Legends  
Are Made



STAND CLEAR APPRENTICE LEGEND



**RANGE AVAILABLE: ZIP HOODIE, SWEAT SHIRT, POLO SHIRT, T-SHIRT, TRAKKIE BOTTOMS, BEANIE HAT, BASEBALL HAT – ALL MADE USING TOP QUALITY GARMENTS – AVAILABLE IN 9 DIFFERENT COLOURS (Black, Grey Marl, Red, Navy, Bottle Green, White, Orange, Royal Blue and Brown)**

Please note the designs are only on the tops, but the Union Jack BC appears on all garments



Only available in Black

## HOW TO ORDER:

- 1) Choose Garment
- 2) Choose Design A, B or C
- 3) Choose Colour
- 4) Choose Size: S, M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL or XXXXL

**NEW  
SUBTLE**  
JUST THE BC LOGO  
see website  
for details



[BIGCARPMAGAZINE.CO.UK](http://BIGCARPMAGAZINE.CO.UK)

Place your order online at **THE BIG CARP SHOP**

**[www.bigcarpmagazine.co.uk](http://www.bigcarpmagazine.co.uk)**

**Phone the order hotline 01252 373658**

**OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK 9.00AM UNTIL 9.00PM**



**\*All orders subject to a  
postage charge of £4.95 for  
'Signed Delivery'.  
PLEASE ALLOW TEN DAYS**





# A Four-Week Mission...

...To Catch My Target Fish on a Cheshire Sand Quarry

By Rob Allen



**A**fter a week in Oxford, I came back to Warrington in Cheshire where I'm from, and I had four weeks till I returned to Oxford. For the previous three months I had been baiting a quarry, which I had been fishing for a few years. After a few problems, my fishing had been scatty, which didn't allow me to fish as much the past year or so, but with all that behind me, I was now ready, with my head fully focused on doing one thing, and this was to catch the "Big Mirror" before I went back to Oxford. This wasn't going to be easy by all means, but the mission began, consisting of quick overnights.

The first couple of sessions were good... well, excellent... picking up a long, lean mirror of just over 20lb and a 25lb 4oz mirror, which is historic looking and the second biggest mirror to the big one, a stockie that is piling on the weight. I was very happy, and at this point I was hooked, so I was keen to get back. I began fishing four nights a week just to give me every chance possible of catching my present target fish. The fish just kept coming and coming, taking my tally to nine fish, consisting of six old originals and only three of the new stock, but two of them being 20-plus linears. My chances of catching the mirror



were now getting more realistic; this is a quantity of fish most anglers (including me) would fish a full year for. I was totally in a zone, but my time was now coming to an end with Oxford fast approaching, so I decided to fish a full 72 hours before I headed down to Oxford and delay the trip by a few days.

I finished work on the Wednesday to get a few full nights in before I left,

so I had Wednesday, Thursday and Friday to catch my target fish and make this a session to remember. Although with all the other nights being school nights, I felt confident of picking a few fish up at least, with no interruptions of packing up to go to work. Like all the other nights, they consisted of not getting much sleep and being late through taking morning pictures. I'd had so many sleepless nights; it had been a tough few weeks, but I felt good about the way I was catching, so why not? After arriving for my stay I was quickly over to the swim I'd been fishing. I had made a rash decision the previous day to find a new spot in deeper water, thinking I wasn't going to get her on my previous spots. I thought I needed to go deeper even though my spots were already in depths of 18ft. I found a new spot at 24ft, a nice gravel spot about 6ft by 6ft with soft blanket weed both sides. I tend to think the bigger fish feed around the edge and let the smaller fish take the risk over a healthy baited area of course. I put out 5-6kg of boilies over the spot, so it was in for 24 hours before I got back.

I got on with getting my rods sorted, eager to get them out and sit back and put the kettle on. I'd finally got all the rods out and began setting



**(Top) First linear at 20lb.  
(Left) Second linear at 20lb.**





up camp, now and again taking a look in the snags on the left hand side of the swim to see if I could see anything. At this time of year you don't see much in the shallows, or even any, but I was amazed, as there were four fish mooching in 2ft of water. One of them was a common that I hadn't had yet, so I was extremely happy. It had to pass my left hand rod to pass through the bay where it was fishing. These are special sights in the day that boost your confidence for the coming hours. I went to get some baits and then back to the snags, introducing a few baits at a time. The fish then scarpered through the fallen

trees and reeds, so I put in a bit more when they had gone, then went back to rods. An hour or so went by, and I thought it was a good time to get back and see if they were back there eating my offerings. And they were... all of them back and hoovering them up. I just remember thinking, wow, mid October and they're having a good old munch in the shallows! I was well pleased at seeing this, but as the night came it was soon time to hit the pillow.

The next morning came round very quickly without having had a single beep. Later on that afternoon, I just had to make that change, something

different just to add that little edge. I was thinking I needed to be a bit more tactical here, as she wasn't going to fall for a snowman; it was too obvious, even though I'd put nine fish on the bank with the same rig. But time had gone on, and we were now heading to the back end of October, so with a slight tweak of the rig in mind, I made up a fresh rig with an extremely long hair to take two 16mm baits but leaving 20mm still from the bait to the bend of the hook. This way any suspicious fish are less likely to see it than the snowman, and the longer hair was to make it feel as natural as possible. I still had the same size gap as when using the snowman, and every fish was well and truly hooked, but that was my little touch to help me feel I'd done everything possible that day. So with the rod back out on the healthily baited spot, I was feeling much better about the change of tactic. That's fishing – you feel you have to do that little bit extra if things slow down.

Night time soon came round, and I remember thinking my last 24 hours was fast approaching. I thought the magic rub was needed, so I was sitting down beside the rod, giving it the magic stroke, like you do. I'd done that once before and the rod ripped off, so it's something I do. I could only pray then after that, and God, I'd done some praying over the last few weeks. I was sat up till late that evening with it all running through my head, imagining it happening, like every angler does, but on this occasion I'd publicly set myself a target, and it would be a dream come true if it was to grace my net. Finally I dropped off at 5am.

I was awoken later that morning by one long tone from this rod. Jumping up out of bed with no time to slip on my shoes, I got to my rod as quickly as possible, thinking "Is this it?" with my heart beating. Soon I was fighting to get the waders on and in contact with a good fish. The fish was kiting down the lake in a fashion I had not experienced before on this water. With it being so deep they don't tend to hug the bottom. The rod normally feels very flexible as they swim through the deep water, but this wasn't the case; it was hugging the bottom and line was just spilling off the spool.

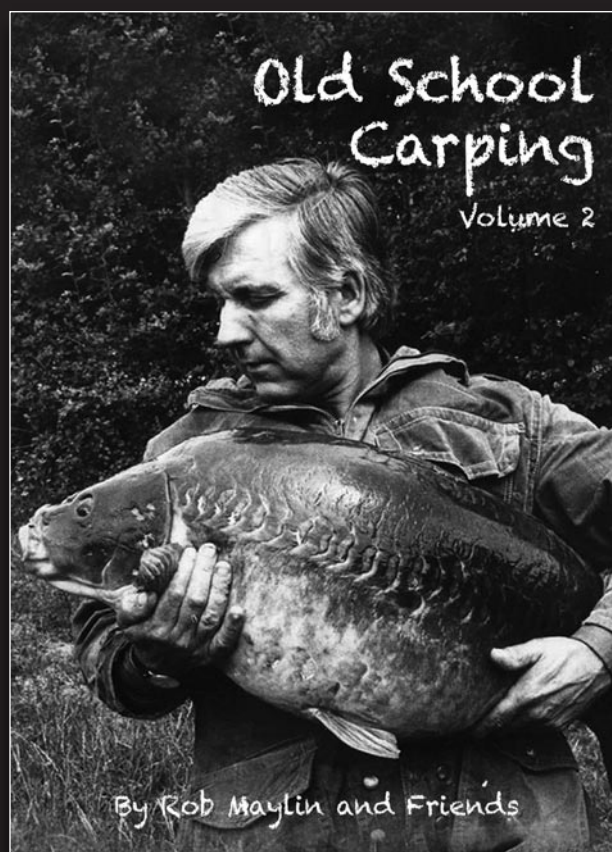
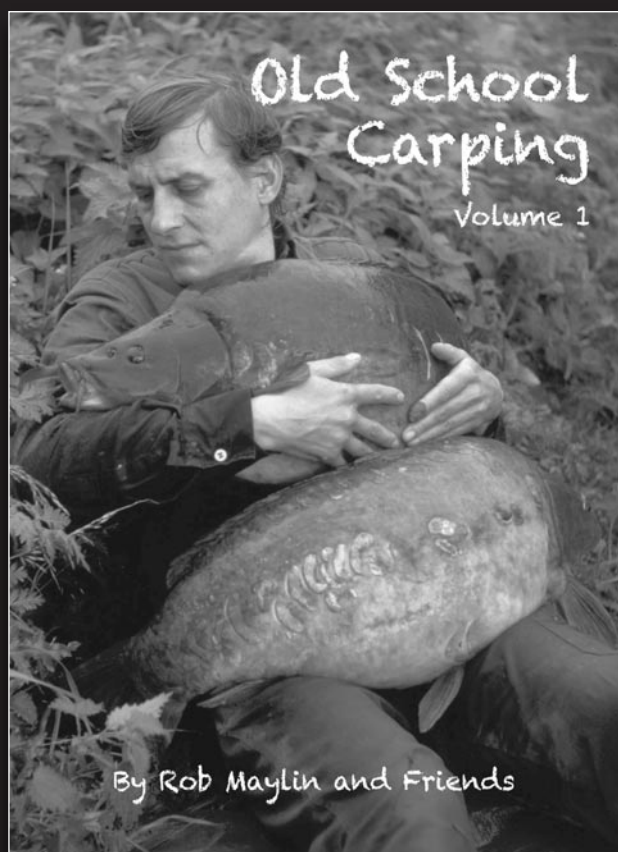
I quickly turned its head and



**Second biggest original mirror in the lake – 25lb 6oz.**



# OLD SCHOOL CARPING SERIES



01252 373658

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



brought the fish towards me after five minutes of left to right. As the fish got closer it began hugging the shelf and got weeded up on the steep shelf where I'd lost two fish the week before. I quickly went right out as far as I could go, lifting the fish almost vertically to stop dragging it through weed and making it harder for myself. The fish was soon at the surface and the net was sliding under – what a relief. At this point I was still unsure of what was in the net, walking back slowly to put the rod down to try and have a good look, like you do. I put on my head torch and lifted the net at the same time to judge the weight. I just knew by the weight that I had done it, and there she was – the Big Mirror in the net! I couldn't believe it; it was over the newly heavily baited spot and the tweaked rig. I had to slap my face to check I wasn't dreaming. This was a special moment I'll never forget; not just the fact of having this target fish (and it was one of the finest fish you could ever catch), but the way it was done – setting a target like that, putting everything I had in to it and pulling it off. You just can't write that! And it wasn't only this fish – there were nine others along the way with most being the ones to catch.

It was a truly magical moment with fish number ten being the golden "ticket", and with ten being my lucky number it was just meant to be. I soon got the fish in the retention sling, try-



ing to get my head together and get my rod back out. After that I'll never forget just sitting on the bank looking at that retention sling in the water with the good old carp shakes, waiting for the right time to make that call for help with the photos. I soon got in touch with two friends, Andy Weston and Jack Swindles, having had to call them before work. It was Jack I called first, as he had taken lots of photos of most of my fish over the last four weeks and had been there the previous night wishing me good luck. After he had done some baiting up, before

he left, I remember saying, "I'll be calling you in the morning to do the pics of the big girl." He said, "Any hour, mate." Then I phoned Andy Weston the bailiff, and they were both soon there to do the pictures and weigh the fish. She was at a very impressive weight of 35lb 10oz, a truly prestige warrior, dark and rich in her winter colours!

After all the pictures were done and the lads headed back to work, I was soon in two minds whether to call it a day, go home and soak it all up and start getting things sorted for my trip to Oxford. But there were two more fish to go for, one being the common that I was feeding in the snags, and the preferred one out of the two I would like to catch. So I couldn't do it; I had to see out my last night, exhausted as I was.

The next morning soon came around. I was just starting to pack up and Deano, a lad who fishes there was coming on. He came over to shake my hand and congratulate me on my result. We stood there nattering for a while, and then from nowhere the same rod ripped off. I couldn't believe it! Having another



**(Top)** This was one of the first to come along, a stunning long river-looking mirror of 20lb 8oz. All these fish are old and part of the A-team.

**(Left)** This was the icing on the cake, the next in line, falling right on the final bell – 22lb 12oz and the biggest known common to date.





take on that rod and right on the dinner bell too! After an epic battle and the fish breaking the surface, I could see it was the common. I just looked at Deano and he looked at me. I had just been telling him what had gone on with this fish, and it had been next in line! Fishing doesn't get much better than this – fishing for one fish that turns into 11 fish in such a short period of time on such a tough water. This is what carp fishing is all about and what makes these special moments. It had been an epic past few weeks and a mission I will never forget – a mission well and truly completed. ■

#### The Big Mirror.







# Holbrook Gardens

By Leigh Steele

The old looking oak that is surrounded by pines in the summer.



**M**y name is Leigh Steele, I'm 35 years old, and I'm going to let you in on a secret lake in a village called Holbrook in Suffolk. I got into fishing at the age of eight after nagging my dad to start up again to teach me the way. I wasn't a kid that wanted to stay in and was blessed to be living out in the countryside, right on the doorstep of where my dad used to fish as a kid. Getting membership for Holbrook Gardens Angling Club was easy back then. The owner always said the lake was for local people. At £30 for a year it was a bargain, and the membership was capped at 40 members.

The lake itself is just off the main road down a country lane. It is the best part of 12 acres of fishable water surrounded by reeds in the margins, one very large set of pads where a



fallen oak has laid for years and another set of pads at the other end of the lake not as big and in deeper water. The road end is the deepest water with a fallen willow as a feature. The east side of the lake is all woodland and has the deepest average depth of around 8 feet. The west side of lake gets the sun and is also shallower with an average depth of 4-6 feet. The lake has 40 swims, 20 on each side. Most of them have open water in front with a handful having a

few features to fish to. As the lake is several hundred years old, and bottom conditions of all but one swim is silt, silt or silt. Then there are the ever-popular swims with the pads and fallen trees.

In the early days I had to fish with my dad and was restricted to day-only fishing. It was hard going at first, as the lake was just recovering from a fish kill caused by an algal collapse resulting in critical oxygen levels. This is an issue that hasn't been

**(Top) A view of the lake from the road end.**

**(Below) One of the smaller fully scaled at 33lb.**







addressed, and it is well overdue to happen again in the near future. In my mind this type of neglect is criminal. In the aftermath of the fish kill stocking had taken place of carp, tench and

silver fish by way of bringing stock levels back up. At this stage of my angling I was happy to fish for anything and just catching was enough to make me happy. As the years went

by the fishing on the lake got better and better, and, still of an age where I had to fish alongside my dad, I had become accomplished enough to catch more than him, much to his annoyance. I had fallen in love with the place and had developed a serious passion for fishing.

All the way through the 90s the club ran in a friendly manner. The owner would come down for an early morning swim and have a chat with you whilst 2 feet away from your rigs! You knew all the members. Although there were 40 members, it was a mix of out-and-out carp anglers, all species anglers and the out-and-out match angler, but all got on. I was at the stage where I wanted to fish more and more, so I was lucky to have a smaller water tucked away in the woods that I was able to fish. It was basically the stock pond for the main

**(Left) 27lb 3oz mirror, one of many big-scaled fish.**

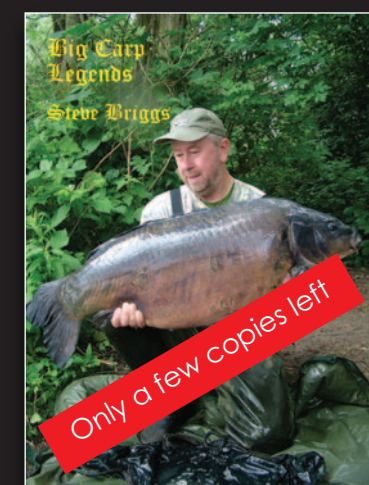
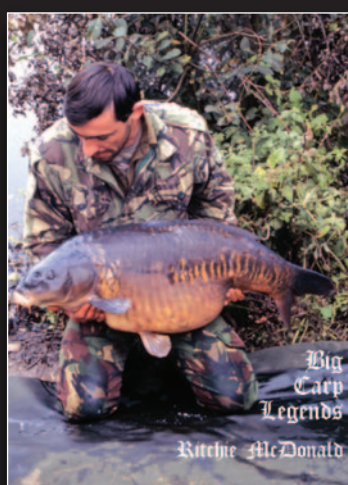
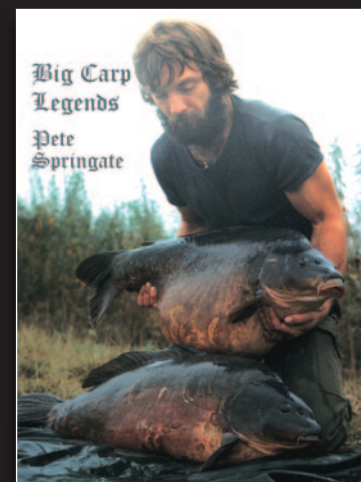
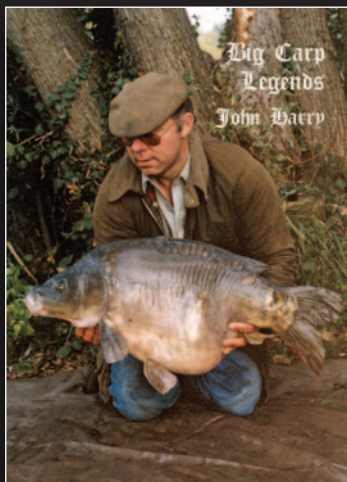
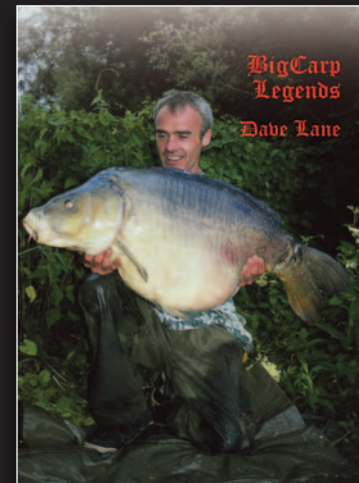
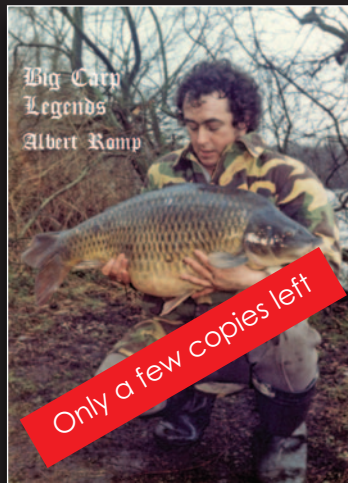
**(Below) 36lb 12oz mirror taken from the Top Pads swim.**





# BIG CARP LEGENDS SERIES

*The anglers that shaped today's carp scene*



01252 373658

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





lake. My mates and I had some really great times, and it was a very big learning curve for my fishing. Catching my first carp of about 5lb put a huge smile on my face, and I couldn't contain my excitement. At the weekends I was back on the main lake with my dad, now being allowed to fish my own swim but only next door to my dad of course!

This set me up. I wanted to catch a carp from the main lake but was still happy to catch anything, as being only 15/16 years old the excitement of the alarms going off gave me a buzz. All things were still good on the lake, everyone being friendly and more than happy to help each other. The carp guys were putting a lot of bait in, which in return was catching loads of fish, but not all carp. I had to convince my dad this was the way forward, and

thankfully our catch rate started to go up. This was the first big lesson I learned – put the effort in and you will get rewarded. The second biggest lesson was to ask questions even if you think it is a stupid question; you will learn from it. This helped me catch my first double figure carp from the lake. The fight it gave me and the buzz I got was amazing. At this time the members would congratulate you, shake your hand and help you with photos – as it should be.

By the late 90s the fish had really cracked on with the average weight being 30lb-plus, and the place still wasn't pressured at all. If you were unlucky there might have been six people spread out, as we all had an agreement that if someone was baiting an area they would stay away. You still had a few people who would fish over your baits if you weren't there just because they couldn't be bothered to do the work for themselves. This is when my first big hit came – I landed four fish of 36lb, 37lb and 38lb and topped it with a magnificent 40lb fish all within four hours of fishing – a great result for my efforts.

This went on for quite a few years. I was catching more now I was old enough to fish alone, and lucky enough to fish three nights a week. You could sense the turning point of

**(Top) A nice looking mid-twenty.**  
**(Left) Known as the oak bay and shallow and warm, fish are often seen cruising around.**  
**(Below) Cracking view from the bivvy.**







The big fully scaled at 39lb 14oz.



The old girl at 40lb 12oz.



some of the members; the ones that helped you out were now secretive to the point of not even talking to you. Some members you could hear swearing about you across the water because you had a bend in your rod and they were sitting there blanking – the unrest had set in! What was a very nice place to fish with everyone getting on had turned. The match guys would argue with the carp guys who in return would fight back. Silly rules were put in place regarding how much bait you could put in. The people who put the effort in baiting up every night were accused of holding all the fish in the swim they were baiting. The members who just

popped down for the odd day were blanking after putting in no effort had now stopped the ones who did put the effort in.

At the request of the owner the lake still holds a traditional closed season. He would not budge on this and it was very frustrating. He had also stopped us from baiting up in the preseason to try and keep the peace. The usual draw for swims would take place but no bait was allowed until the 1st of June. To a lot of us this wasn't in the interest of the fish but to keep people happy! Feeding the fish in preseason would help them come out of the winter months with some free bait to help them build them-

selves up. Opening nights involved a BBQ, which at first was a great evening for everyone to come together, have a chat tell some tales and a bit of banter. As the years went on this became less of a thing, and the family feel about the place had fallen away.

As the lake was so top secret you weren't allowed to speak about the place. As soon as you said you lived in and fished in Holbrook the rumour mill would start up. I would try to play it down and say there was nothing worthwhile to catch etc... More people tried their luck coming to have a look around, and they started to see what was in there. It wasn't hard as



From the big scaled one to hardly any scales, but one of the many 30s at 34lb.





there were no locks on the gate; you could just walk in a short way from the road to the shallow bay and any carp angler would think, wow! This led to people trying their luck fishing after dark to start with, and then getting bolder and fishing in daylight. It took a few dedicated members to police the water. None of the committee members cared, and at times it got nasty, but I was protecting the water I grew up on. One bloke I caught had a fish sacked up ready to go. I phoned for help, and the only

person rushing to help was a new member, Rob Nunn. We got the police out, caught the bloke up in the village and ended up in court. I did this for the fishery and the owner. I hoped that this would send out the right message about poaching/fishing the place. Unfortunately, good old English law being what it is, the guy was let off, as he didn't have a rod in his hands! The fish in his sling got there how? To top it off the police gave the guy the sling back after the court case. After this we at least put locks

on the gates, but the area is not that well fenced.

The politics really got going on the place. With so many high 30s and at least six 40s, what was a nice, friendly place turned sour. Rob and I were doing really well, and this was the downfall. The other carp anglers got desperate; the gentleman's rule of staying away from baited swims had been forgotten. A committee member rolled up and went straight in where Rob had been fishing and baiting, and within the day Rob was suspended on the grounds of what was said on that day. In true fashion things were made up, and another committee member fishing that day kept quiet because they wanted Rob off the water. The inner circle had taken a real hold of the place. Right up to the end of the 2016 season one committee member had broken the rules at least eight times over 15 years but is still a member and running the place.

This brings me to the final year I had on the lake. I had not been on the

**(Top) Late autumn view from the Pads swim.**

**(Below) My PB common 34lb.**





place for three years, and not many people would talk to me. In fact three or four people had it in for me, as I'm still very good friends with Rob, which they didn't like. I am also a member on the other local lake run by Rob, which made them paranoid that I was nicking fish to supply the other lake, which is very insulting. Being with a bait company was another factor against me – mixing it with the elite, as they would put it. They were worried about what was going on behind closed doors. To find out what was being caught was hard work. One of the members did help out and gave me some time, which I think didn't do me any favours in the end. It really was the case of keeping everything close to your chest. If you let on that you had caught, someone would be in your swim the next day. It was a case of catch at all cost – as I see it they didn't want to work for it, just come in, catch and be happy – kind of sad really.

I was told in the winter the year before two members were catching during the day all the way through winter but hadn't told anyone. If they saw someone they would hide in the bushes so they wouldn't be seen and even hide the unhooking mat to pretend they hadn't caught. This wasn't the place I had fallen in love with and grown up on. It was now a very sad, lonely place to be, or it was the case with me. Only fishing three weeks of the 2015/16 season, I had eight fish out from an area overlooked by many anglers. I was seen having a fish by



**(Above) Pretty looking twenty.**

**(Below) West side of the lake.**

**(Bottom) Upper double figure fish that had been moved from the stock pond.**



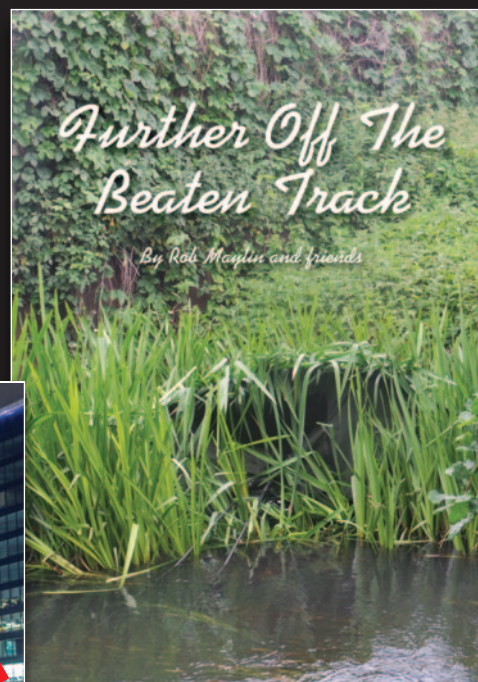
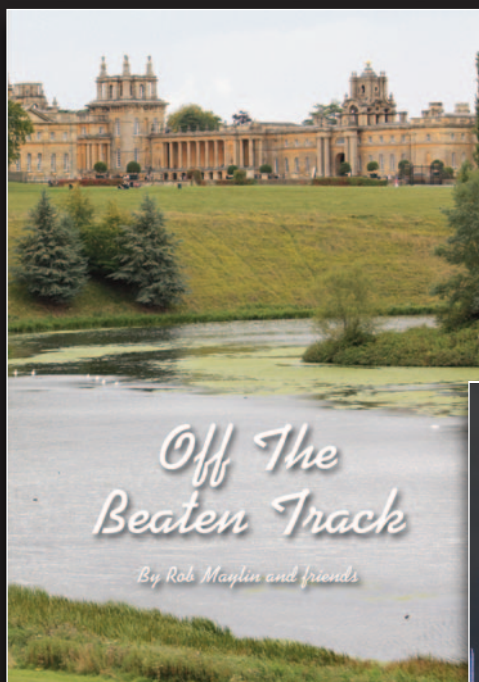
one member, and the secret was out. I returned to fish the next day and yes, there he was trying to catch over my work – the same person who would catch at all cost no matter what, even putting the fish at risk. Yet again a committee member was bending and breaking the rules.

Yes, now I too have been kicked off. Having grown up on the place it is very sad to see how things have changed. The owner is totally blind to what has happened to his friendly family-run fishing club. The inner circle gang up and get rid of people who don't fit and bring in their pals. This goes against what the owner originally wanted – a club that is run and fished by local people. I don't miss the people, but I miss the place I fished from as a boy. ■



# OFF THE BEATEN TRACK SERIES

*For lovers of the unknown, unnamed and uncaught*



01252 373658

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



# The Farm Pit

By Lee Bennett

**F**arm Pits are always a bit of the unknown, so when I investigated my local farm pond I was delighted to see a really nice common approaching 30lbs. Although winter was approaching, I decided to investigate further, so in mid-December, I set off to The Pit armed with my marker rod. I spent a full day casting about, and after a few casts I had the great feeling of the lead crashing down on solid gravel. Tightening up and pulling the lead, I could tell I had dropped on a very clean gravel spot, which I knew had to be a feeding spot for the carp.

January came around, and by then I had decided to make it my target to catch the Big Common before June, as I knew I would be starting on my new water then. This wasn't going to be easy with an estimated stock of less than twenty. On my first real session I got the rods out to the spots I had found on my earlier reconnaissance trip, putting around twenty baits over two of my rods, and with the third rod out with a single hook-bait fished on a single chod, I settled down for the night, finally happy that I was fishing to the best of my abilities. At around 12.30 that night I had



my first screaming take and landed my first carp – a common of 17lb 4oz, which was followed with another at around 6am. After this I thought it was going to be a walk in the park for me. Little did I know that for the rest of January and February I would blank.

In March I spent three days there landing another stunning common of 21lb 5oz in the small hours during the first night. I got it in the sling ready for pictures at first light, and when I took

it out in the morning, I noticed it had left the remains of a feast of naturals in the sling. It suddenly clicked to me why I had only been catching on singles and not on my rods with bait around. I came to the decision I would put all three rods on single chods from now on.

March 28th I had a phone call from my friend to ask if I could come down with the camera, as he had caught the Big Common. As a good friend, I dropped my plans, picked up my camera and headed to The Pit. I was made up for him, but behind my brave face I was gutted, as I knew she generally only came out around once a year, and that my chance had gone.





My next session was very productive with another two carp and ten tench (one being a new PB of 7lb 8oz). A week later and back on the bank I caught another PB tench of 8lb 1oz and another carp. May Bank Holiday came around, and I had booked a few days off work, as I planned a fishing trip on a local canal. I cut that trip short, as the weather conditions were perfect, and all I could think about was achieving my target and having The Big Common in my hands.

I arrived at the pit only for there to be another two anglers on, with one of them being on my spot that had produced most of my bites. Not wanting to leave, I had a walk around to try



and see some signs of carp, but with no real signs at all to go on, the only thing that really caught my attention were the wagtails diving on the surface of the lake, taking the hatches off the top. Knowing that the carp had been feeding on naturals, I thought they couldn't be that far away, so I got the rods out on what was now becoming my regular approach of fishing single pop-ups on chod rigs.

Around three hours later I had the camera out taking some shots of the slow sunset. I knocked into my rods and the sounds of my alarms interrupted the peace. What a noddy, I thought to myself, only to notice my middle bobbin pulling up tight. I turned to the water and could see my line kiting to the left. I ran and put down my camera and lifted into it. I knew straight away it was a good fish, as it was moving much slower than the others I'd hooked on here, with a 'heavy' feeling coming back

through the rod. The fight went on for around 15 minutes, and it was only as I drew it over the net cord that I was able to confirm it as the one I'd been

after all along – The Big Common – and only a few weeks since it had last seen the bank. I was straight on the phone to my friends to tell them the good news. As you would expect it took some convincing that I wasn't having them on. Once I had managed to make them believe me, they rushed down to congratulate me and help take the pictures and weigh her. The scales went round to 26lb on the nose, although the weight of this fish was quite irrelevant to me, as I had achieved what I had set out to do and landed my goal.

That night I landed another twenty-pounder and a mid-double. These were then followed by another PB tench of 8lb 12oz, making the session my best to date at The Pit. Mission complete! ■







*Free Line*  
magazine

# A Carper's Path

## A Trip Down Meadow Lane

by Dave Little



**I** cannot begin to describe how much I wanted to fish St. Ives. There were two things holding me back though: one, I didn't really know the place or anybody there, and two, I was really, really nervous, like a boxer walking into a ring or a footballer walking onto the pitch. I knew the angling was tough and highly challenging, and my head was just filled with anxieties. I bit the bullet, paid my subs to Gordy Howes and set foot in this magical arena.

I walked round probably a quarter of the venue on my first day and was just taken by the beauty of the place. I was lost but had certainly found myself. You see fishing the river I was left to do my own thing, never really seeing another angler. There were no worries, just you and the fish, so to speak, so I knew here was going to be a lot different. But after that first walk round and finding just one other soul on acres and acres of water I thought to myself, my cup of tea!

Now I started on St. Ives after the Lady had gone, and I read almost everything about her and about everybody who had caught her, from superstar anglers to local lads to anglers that had travelled many miles

**When it comes to writing about fishing I can tell you that in only a short article we are unable to tell you how much time is consumed, how much is given and how much is taken away, of all the epic fails and losses, tangles and sharpening of hooks, the spodding, the casting, the crack-offs, the pushing and shoving of barrows, the packing down, sometimes in the rain, thinking you're a weather expert and the winds that rule the outcome, the cost of the cooking and the cost of bait, the somehow crazy obsession with the moon and its phases, the outdoor toilets and neglected showers, all those miles walking and the sleepless hours listening through the cold nights... But somehow through all this darkness and madness, after hours of searching, after the changing of the seasons and after the years of trying, through the course of time somehow those pebbles we stumble on become mountains we leap over. So keep at it, because you just never know... that next bite may all be worth it in the end.**

*Dave Little*

to get their chance at the Lady of the Lagoon. I had greatly admired all those that walked the Lagoon's banks – those that had worn paths before me. I ended up in a swim called 'Little Dave's' (no, not named after me) and flicked out a pop-up. Staring across the lake's surface, conjuring thoughts entered my mind, eyes adjusted, and I just 'fell in' and felt totally in awe of the place. I listened hard to try and hear the banter and tales told by the anglers from before, of their captures and their losses, sat in each swim whilst kilos of bait were being piled

in. I imagined all who had walked through that gate at some time or another, and it sent shivers down my spine.

Walking the lake, baiting here and there, I eventually managed to catch the Lagoon's Dark Common. It was a great start, and I was ecstatic and over the moon to have caught a Lagoon original. It was obviously swimming and rubbing flanks with fish like Eight Ball and Dumpy's Linear, the Lady and the St. Ives Black Pig, so it was some consolation for my late entry to this magical history



The Lagoon's big common.





The Lagoon's dark common.

water. Unfortunately and very sadly, I was being drawn away once more to flowing water and a challenge to fish a section of the River Ouse only a few miles up the valley. It had me away from the place the rest of the year, but trust me when I say, I returned the



following year in earnest.

I was fired up, mega keen, walking loads, setting up in flooded swims, freezing nights, early starts, sitting and staring at the water for hours – there was nothing going to stop me. I wanted to catch more St. Ives carp. I had wandered over onto the Shallow Lagoon, and I was fishing every swim, looking for something to go on, a leaping fish, a roll, a carp fart, and I'd be moving round the lake. I remember sitting in the Steps swim for literally hours telling myself, "Don't cast until you see one!" It was four hours before one showed, and in front of the swim furthest away from where I was! It never fazed me though, and I was around the lake in a shot. Of course, even when rods were sent out and I was more than happy with the fact that I was fishing close to fish, I still blanked! That's just the way it was at St. Ives, but I loved the challenge.

It wasn't until March that I woke up with dawn's light in my face and I saw my first bubble. Pin pointing it like a goshawk's gaze, I persevered with the area, and after a few weeks came up trumps with a few fish to 45lb. Once more I found myself half naked in the lake punching the air, but the Lagoon was calling... I had become pretty much obsessed with

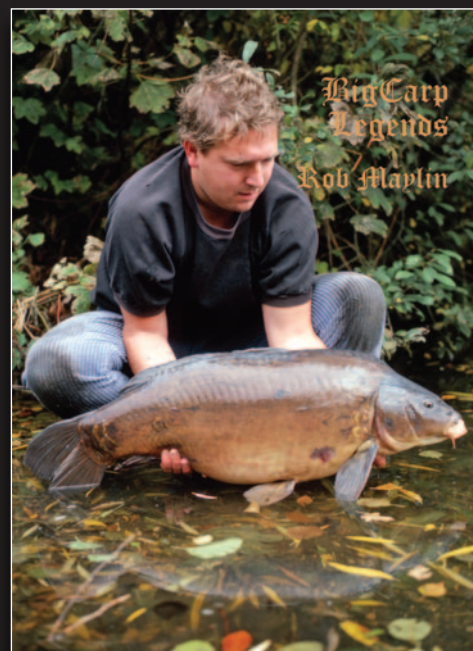
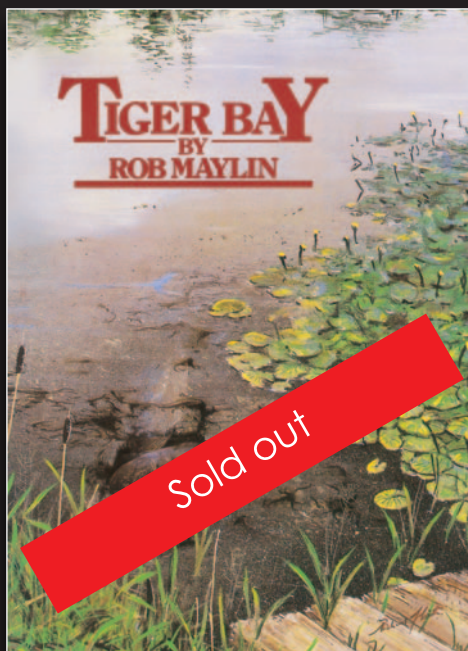
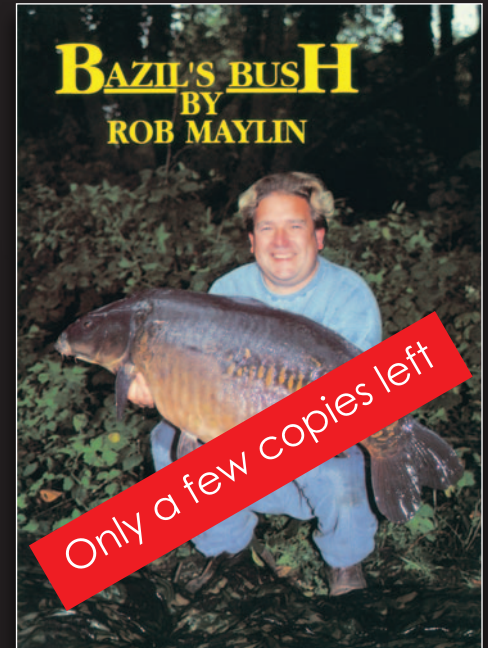
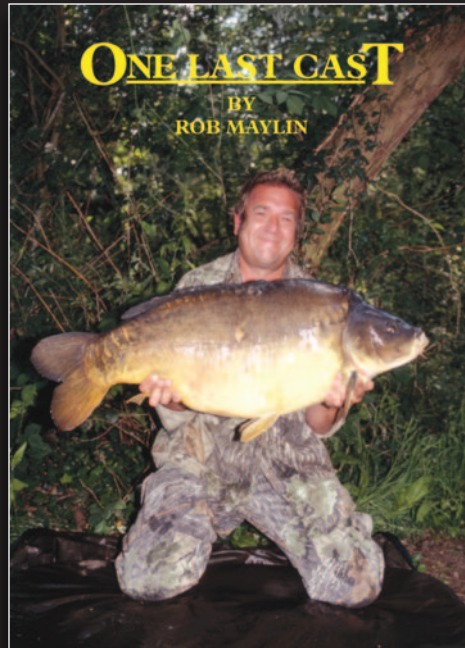
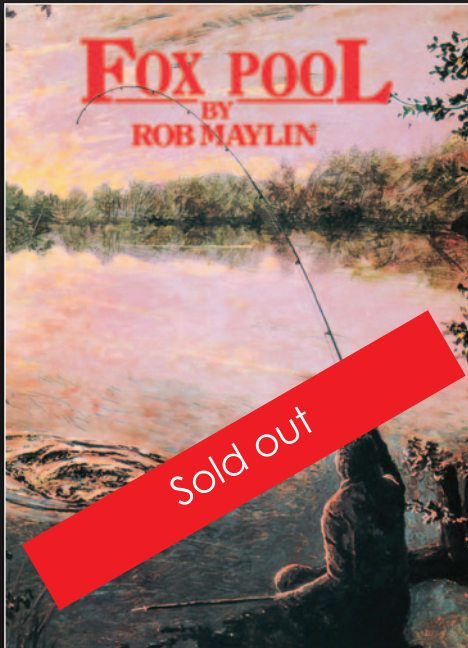
the place, the mighty Lagoon. Yes, the Lady had sung, but it wasn't over yet. There were others I desired, like pieces of gold wanted by pirates, so I went in search. I did not imagine in the slightest what would turn up. It wasn't all about the biggest; I just wanted to get closer to the place and have a fling with it, find out its moods and behaviour and find out why it had put demands on the other anglers that had fished there.

I can tell you now some of the things I saw and discovered that sent me away just shaking my head in disbelief. I saw fly hatches that sent the carp into a frenzy, leaping like pods of dolphins. I saw tench herding fry like sheep towards larger, marauding groups of tench to savagely snap at and eat. I saw the Tricor Common swim right past my feet into inches of water and sit in the margin reeds like a scared pheasant! (On the missing list for years, it was caught only last year). I saw one of the old originals come into an area, pick up one bait and then disappear as if it had never been there, and it never did turn up again. I saw fish in the afternoon rock up into the bankside, tearing at what looked like tufts of grass. On closer inspection, I found that just below the grass in inches of water were small



# THE ROB MAYLIN SERIES

*50 years on the bank with Rob and Friends*



01252 373658

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



mussel beds with tiny little mussels blooming outwards. I found areas close in all around the Lagoon that screamed fish and even started to change my ideas of leaders and rigs to suit with colours becoming the first obvious choice. There was so much going on; too much to learn and not enough time to do so.

I had joined my old mate Tetley later on in the day for a BBQ. It was around the beginning of June, and the sun was merrily shining away. Tetley had walked the lake a few times and had ended up plotting in front of the island in the Lawns swim, so I decided to drop in just next door. The Lagoon Lake looked tranquil and calm without a breeze on her. Blue skies and the odd cloud above attracted the BBQ's smoke as we got the rods out and got stuck into food and wine. By the next morning Tetley was holding his first Lagoon original, the Magnus Mirror, and I was as happy as he was to see him catch his first from the lake. He was off later that day, but I still had another night and day left, as work had been put on hold... well, kind of.



Now Tetley had gone, I flicked out a third rod with a single white pop-up, soaked in growler juice and green lipped mussel powder, about halfway between the island. First cast it went down firm and remembering there was nothing but weed there the year before, I just left it as it was. The other

rods were fishing in 12ft out on a silt patch, and I had definitely been done up like a kipper already that morning. By the next day those close in rods had been stitched up again, and it wasn't until 10am when the third rod ripped off like a steam train that I remembered it was there. Looking



**Fishery manager, Gordy Howes with the lagoon's largest – the fat lady has sung, but it ain't over yet!**



Colin.



back now it was a scorching hot morning, and as the fish was turned and reached the surface, immediately it was recognisable! Rolling around on the surface, more golden than the Aztec's palace, the Lagoons Big Common was illuminated in the sun's rays. Dropping them before I soiled



them and shaking like I had seen a ghost I just ran straight out into the lake waist deep and trouserless with the net. My heart was in my mouth. There was no way I was losing this one. With all the commotion Nigel Twin and his mate Mick were straight round. They must have thought "What's that idiot doing?" I just kept saying through nerve-wrecked, shivering teeth, "IT'S THE BIG COMMON!"

How did I feel? Well, the cans of beer were opened up way before the sun went past yard arm. Never in a million years had I expected it, a simply stunning fish, and now one that's rocking over the 40lb barrier! I've received laminated prints from both Nigel and Mick (thank you, gents), and they proudly hang on the wall amongst the river fish. The Lagoon had looked after me, friends were made and St. Ives had felt like home. All this from just going fishing... I finished that year on a high with the Magnus Mirror and a few River Ouse fish to just over 30lb. I was confident and already prepared for what lay ahead. I needed to be!

It seemed all my fears had turned into confidence. Knowing what I had to do, the Shallow Lagoon was what I poured my heart into. I just didn't realise how hard it was going to get. Before April the lake was quiet with only a few anglers on, and getting into areas wasn't that hard to manage. I had fished round the back of the shallows but had found feeding fish at about 90 yards in front of the Island swim. I spoddied a few kilos of bait out and kept an eye on the area for a few weeks. Well, with a combination of new members and weed growth every time I wanted to get on the lake my plans had gone to waste. I couldn't get anything together, and knowing that I'd be packing up in the morning to go to work just meant I missed the best period of the day for a bite. It was nothing but a drain both physically and mentally.

On a more cheerful note, along the way I met Dave Payne. One of our own lads, bless him, and stationed not far away, he had come to catch Colin! Trouble is nobody had even helped him to even feel the lead down, a lesson I was taught by the master. I felt



an overwhelming urge to show the dear chap the ways of the cast, hopefully giving him half a chance for maybe a bite or two. So dear reader, you can imagine my look when at first light one day towards the end of April, there was dear old Dave standing in my brolly doorway with the most shocked, happy, bewildered and amused face from what he had just accomplished! He'd banked Colin, and at over 50lbs it just looked immense! That one went down with a 'donk', Dave.

After Dave's capture, and with the lake getting weedier and fewer swims to fish, I wandered over onto the Big Fjords and nabbed a few of the stockies. It was good catching, but I was not in a happy place, and I really should have been going at Colin. So after a huge lightning storm I left the Fjords and returned with a week's holiday onto the Shallow once more.

I fished Curly's for a night, and then moved into the Shingles the following day. Jerry Hammond was in the Hole in the Bush swim, and we had a coffee together and chatted carp. I can remember him saying to me, "You'll get it, mate. You'll have Colin!" as I wandered off. Next morning Tetley came to my swim. He was fishing in the Islands next door and had lost a fish that morning. "Close in, it was," he had said. It sent alarm bells ringing back to when Mark 'Boots' Johnson had had a hit of fish from there the year before. Tetley kindly mentioned he was going by lunchtime, so I was dropping in next!

Now previously when I had fished the Shallow in summer the weed wasn't too bad, but this year it was like a football pitch; you could have walked across it in parts. I needed to clear the weed in front of the swim, as I was using mono and didn't want to risk losing a fish, so I got out my little boat and set about clearing the area. Nigel was parked up in the Copse swim and had come to see me dragging in boatloads of green yuk. It took me the best part of the day to clear a V-shape from bank to open water. I said to Nigel that I had probably scared them off back up to his water, and sure enough by next morning he had one. I stayed put another night, and by the morning Paddy and Dave Lane sneaked into my swim, scaring me to hell as usual. Dave questioned of course, "What you had then?" Then

we both looked over to the three areas fizzing away in front of us like a round of drinks on a Friday night. "You want to let me into this swim then?" said Dave laughingly.

Incredibly I could not get a bite for love or money. Tetley had returned to the lake, and by the afternoon we found ourselves at the local cafe, nursing wounds and sinking a large fry-up. I was contemplating fishing for a bite, using fake corn or a little bait maybe. "Stick with what you know," said Tetley, so I did, and at 2am the following morning I was awoken by one almighty fish crashing through the layers of the Shallow Lagoon. I was up and listening and felt sure something had to happen.

About an hour later my left rod started up to pace as the alarm sounded, and I was on it in seconds. Instantly as I felt the line pull up tight I thought of Tetley telling me how he lost one. The weed was hideous, and there was no way I wanted to lose it. So, to cut a long story short, through three weed beds and passing by what I thought was a big black common carp, flattening all of my rods, losing a paddle and then losing my reel to a large green underwater forest and the

strange disappearance of all coots within the area. It was a dead still night, yet nobody heard any commotion until I was on terra firma once more and whispered to the lake that I think (yes think) I had caught Colin!

Now if any of you can make sense of that you are a better man/woman than me. Let's just say as Tetley and Matt came to oblige with weighing and photos I was a shell-shocked wreck. It took an hour at least to sink in that it was actually Colin I had caught.

The fish was epic. The moment was truly unreal. I had lived through it all as if it were a dream. St Ives, the lakes and Colin had all taken me above and beyond to the moons of Jupiter, the highest of highs. The celebrations, the calls and the texts were unbelievable and highly moving. It was a great moment and one to relive forever. In just a split second all had changed. Anything could of happen between landing that fish and not. The hand of luck had been dealt and the challenge had now come to conclusion. Colin was mine!

Be lucky, all...

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

Tickets available now! ■

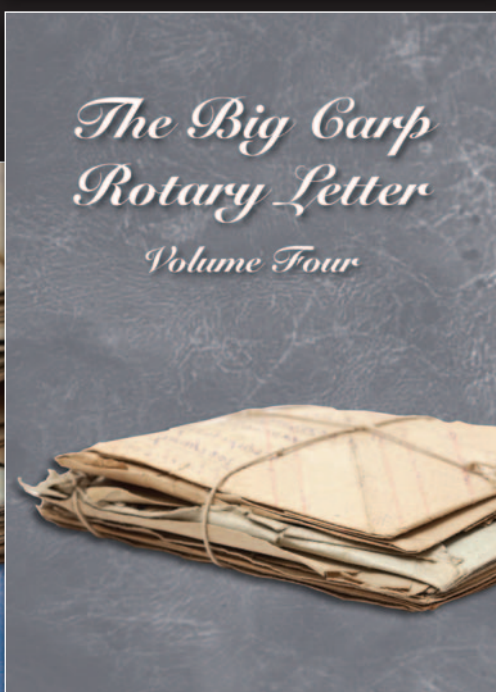
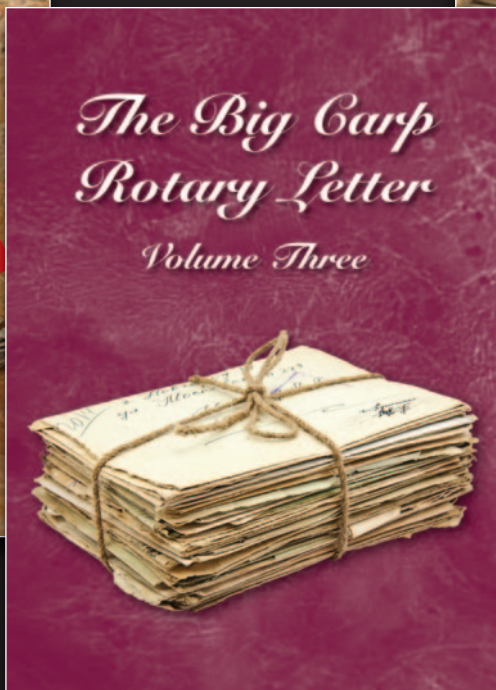
**Returning Colin.**





# THE BIG CARP ROTARY LETTER SERIES

*The greatest collection of thinking anglers ever amassed*



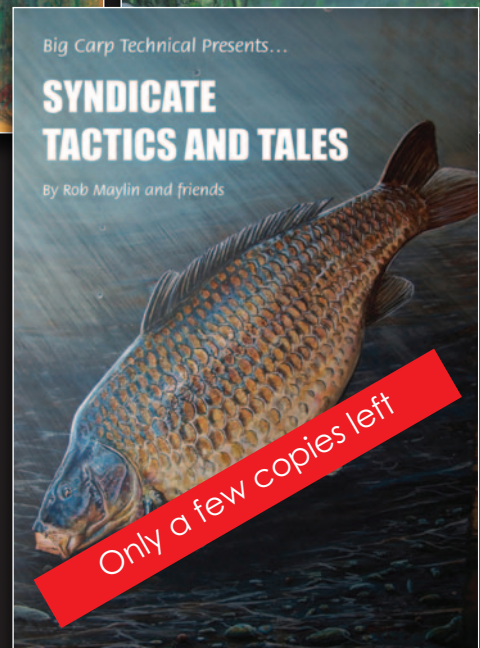
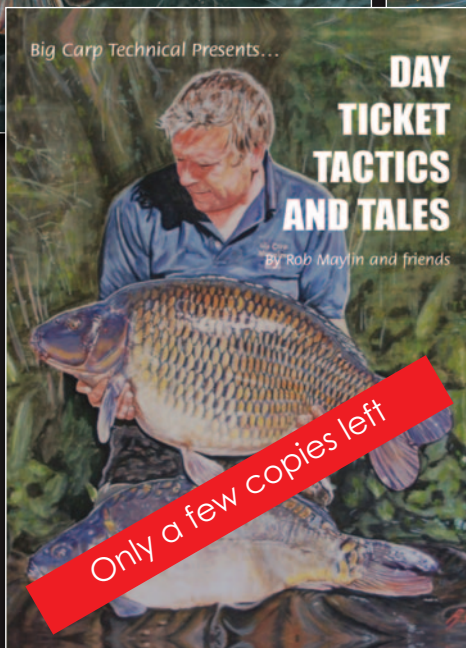
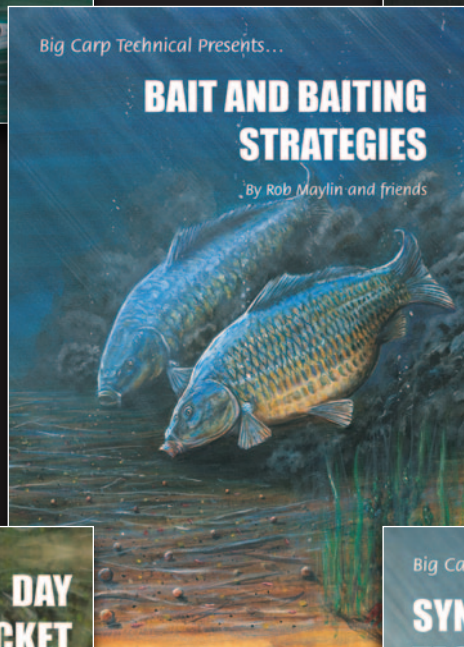
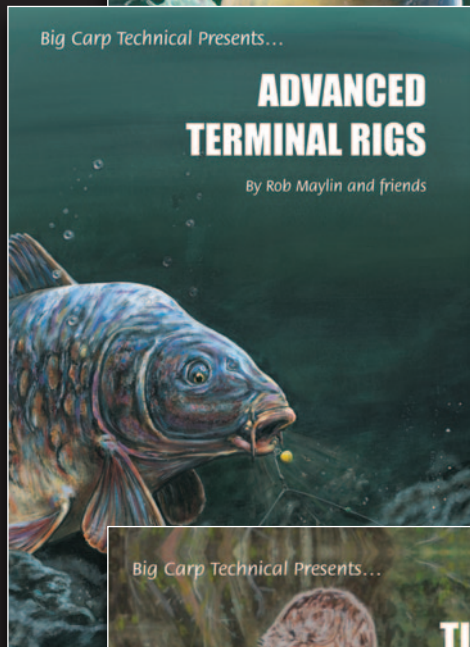
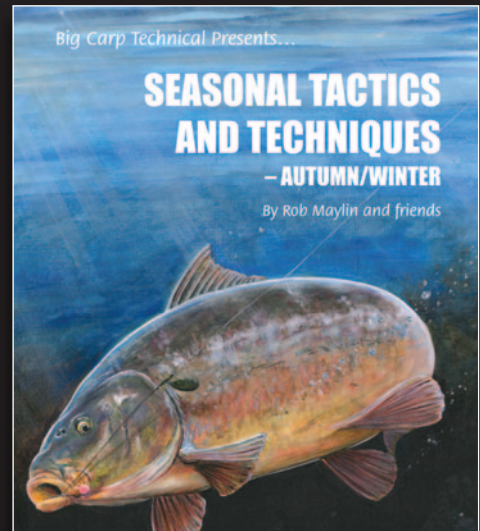
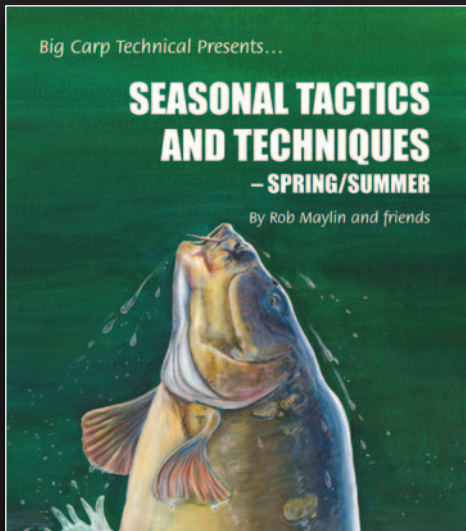
01252 373658

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



# THE TECHNICAL SERIES

*The carp anglers bible unlocks the path to consistent catching*



01252 373658

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