

NOVEMBER ISSUES OF BIG CARP AND FREE LINE MAGAZINES FREE HERE www.freelinemagazine.com or www.freelinemagazine.co.uk



Laneys Featuring Gordy Howes
The Four Seasons of Redmire by Levi Rees
Boilie Crumb – An Autumn/Winter Edge
by Luke Vallory
Pingewoods Floppy Tail by Carl Udry
Winter Essentials by Tom Stokes
Quiet Banks by Tom Maker
The Shire 2023 By Jason Sapsford

Target Achieved by Bradley Purssey
A Previously Trodden Blackwater Path (Part 3) by George Loughlin
Trent – Triumph to Dejection (Part 3) by Mitch Godfrey
Gabrielle 42lb 3oz by Paul Heseltine
An Autumn Session on Christchurch by Scott Phillips
30 Years a Carp Angler by Steve Falco
Undercover Carping by Mitch Godfrey
Chasing Dreams – Twynersh Pit 3 (Part 2) by Warren James Fenn
Bayeswater Beauties by Nick Dodds
My Shropshire Club Water by Rob Brassington
A Christmas Cracker by Paul Bennett



ADVERTISING AT REALISTIC PRICES

info@bigcarpmagazine.co.uk
Over 35,800 email subscribers

BIG CARP

Top Tens!

Top 10 Day Ticket Carp Fisheries

1	COTTINGTON
2	LINEAR
3	CHRISTCHUCH
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 328

**A CHANGE
OF SEASONS
AUTUMN/
WINTER
TACTICS
ISSUE**

**Gordy
Howes
Laney**



**Tom Maker Quiet Banks
Tom Stokes Winter Essentials
Jason Sapsford The Shire 2023
Luke Vallory An Autumn Edge
Carl Udry Pingewoods' Floppy Tail
Levi Rees The Four Seasons of Redmire
Still the proper carp angler's favourite read**

Chiltern Custom Rods

We are based in Buckinghamshire and we specialise in building high quality rods hand built to your requirements using the best quality products from many leading manufacturers.



Our 1k custom compact rods are available in 10ft 3lb or 3.5lb
All rods are built to order so please contact us with your specifications.
We also supply rods using American tackle, Harrison and our own range of blanks.
We also offer our customers a discounted range of luggage from Cult tackle.



CCR 42 inch Custom Compact Landing Net (complete)

All black option:

- 42 inch carbon arms with black aluminium ends.
- Two-piece 1kg carbon handle with shrink grip.
- Black round aluminium spreader block.
- Deep camo mesh.
- Black whippings.
- Net mesh ring and whipped clip.
- Packs into 43 inch sleeve.

All this for £125.00 including postage!

Custom build option is also available for the handle to match existing rods. We can offer the whippings in any colour plus metallic trim bands, if required. Grips are available in cork, burl cork, duplon, or shrink. Several butt cap options available. Custom decals/names available.

All for £150.00 including postage.



A true custom landing net at a realistic price!

Tel: 07903 114842

Web: www.chilterncustomrods.com

Email: chilterncustomrods@yahoo.com

Facebook and Instagram: Chiltern custom rods



A Change of Seasons - Autumn/Winter Tactics Issue

With winter just around the corner, I thought it would be beneficial to put together November's issue of Big Carp with a bit of a technical theme, looking at a variety of tweaks and edges that can be useful making to keep the bites coming when temperatures begin to drop. However, first we have some great pieces from this year featuring some very special carp from a variety of different venues. First up we have Jason Sapsford who has been very successful fishing an exclusive estate lake called 'The Shire', the stock of this water is breath taking. A massive thank you to Jason for sharing his seasons highlights with our readers. Cover story comes from Gordy Howes with his account of the capture of 'Lanays' from his St Ives Lagoon Fishery, what a fish! Next up the return of Levi Rees with the tale of The Four Seasons of Redmire. Levi has been a regular contributor this year, his articles have been consistently good but this month is my favourite by far.

This month we also have the return of Carl Udry, as our regular readers will know Carl was mega successful at Wellington country Park, his articles in big Carp are legendary. Here we have a change of venue and a super special carp 'Pingewood's Floppy Tail' an incredible looking beast from this consistent catcher. And so on to my original theme of this issues from a team of guys who really know their stuff. Luke Vallory unveils An Autumn Edge, Tom Stokes lists his top Winter Essentials and Tom Maker describes the advantages of Quiet Banks. Everyone, experienced anglers and novice anglers alike cannot fail to take away something from these words of wisdom.

I hope you have been enjoying our two free monthly carp magazines, Big Carp and Free Line, see them both here - 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

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

WITHOUT YOUR INPUT THERE WILL BE NO MAGS!

Have a great Autumn/Winter 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 if you would like to see the deals and our media information pack.

Exclusive

40 **Lanays**
Featuring Gordy Howes

42 **The Four Seasons
of Redmire**
By Levi Rees

50 **Boilie Crumb
- An Autumn/
Winter Edge**
By Luke Vallory

56 **Pingewoods
Floppy Tail**
By Carl Udry

60 **Winter Essentials**
By Tom Stokes

62 **Quiet Banks**
By Tom Maker

66 **The Shire 2023**
By Jason Sapsford

Big Carp Promotions

41 **Oak Lake
Fishery**



Editor/Publisher

Rob Maylin
Bountyhunter Publications
44 Herbs End
Cove, Hampshire
GU14 9YD
tel: 07768 731425
email:
bigcarpstudio@hotmail.co.uk

Design & Production
Colin Spray

Advertising Sales
Bountyhunter Publications
44 Herbs End
Cove, Hampshire
GU14 9YD
mobile 07768 731425

BIG CARP 328
December 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
Gordy Howes with 'Lanays' at 56lb 4oz



News & Reviews

6 **Shockleader**

What's happening in the carp scene

16 **Tac-Tec**

Latest product reviews

- Geoff Anderson
- Nite Watches
- Nite Watches
- Nite Watches
- EDZ



Advertising Index

Chiltern Custom Rods 2 Lake Heritage 5 Loei Jungle Fishing Lake Thailand 14 and 15 Leatherman (Whitby) 19
Bounthunter 22 and 23 Kudos 27 IKTUS 31 Coole Acre Lakes 35 Reuben Heaton 39 Oak Lake Fisheries 41
Sandown Park Show 55 Bountyhunter 65 Cottington Lakes 71 Boutyhunter 75 Bountyhunter 80

The Digital Tackle Hut



An Introduction to Fly Fishing



Digital Video E-Books



[Fly fishing \(7 book series\) Kindle edition \(amazon.co.uk\)](https://www.amazon.co.uk)

ShockLeader

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

The Environment Agency and Angling Trust Get Fishing Fund is back!

Monday 2nd October launch date for applications

£200k of funding will get even more people fishing, more often

Grants of up to £2,500 available to deliver events and activities to help people go fishing

Since 2019 the Environment Agency has invested over £400,000 of fishing licence income in 300 Get Fishing Funded projects nationwide, and enabled thousands more newcomers to get into fishing. This popular fund relaunches on Monday 2nd October,

with grants of up to £2,500 per organisation available via the Angling Trust who administer the Get Fishing Fund.

The Get Fishing Fund is all about supporting organisations to run events and activities that help get people into fishing. Funding can be

used to purchase fishing tackle, equipment, event shelters and resources to help run events, making it as easy as possible for newcomers to get fishing!

The fund has proved incredibly popular with angling clubs, fisheries and angling coaches as well as schools, local authorities and charities. Interested organisations are recommended to review the fund guidance notes available at www.anglingtrust.net/getfishingfund, to fully understand the objectives of the fund, and are welcome to contact the Angling Trust to discuss their application and give it the best chance of being successful.

Heidi Stone, Fisheries Partnership Manager at the Environment Agency commented: 'We are delighted to continue this initiative with the Angling Trust. All the funding comes from licence sales so today's anglers are helping to support first timers or novices to try the sport they love. It is especially rewarding to see the joy a first catch or the shared learning experience of families or groups of friends at these professionally run events.'

Clive Copeland, Head of Participation at the Angling Trust added: "Over the past three years, we've seen the incredible impact the Get Fishing Fund has had to help more people get



Angling Direct

Getting Everyone Fishing



Environment Agency

into fishing. The continued support of the Environment Agency to introduce newcomers means that even more people can discover the social, health and wellbeing benefits of fishing."

The deadline for applications is Friday 8th December 2023. Applicants can expect to receive an update on the status of their application by 31st January 2024.

Notes for Applicants: The contact for Get Fishing Fund applicants is: admin@anglingtrust.net The fund opens on Monday 2nd October 2023 and closes on Friday 8th December 2023. Funding applications can be made on the Angling Trust website at [grants.anglingtrust.net/online-application-forms](https://www.anglingtrust.net/online-application-forms) or search "Get Fishing Fund" For more information on coaching and courses visit [anglingtrust.net/get-involved/coaching](https://www.anglingtrust.net/get-involved/coaching). In some circumstances, we may be able to use additional licence income from

the Environment Agency to provide bursaries for training new coaches- Notes for Editors: The contact for this Press Release is: james.roche@anglingtrust.net Get Fishing is the Angling Trust's campaign to grow participation in angling. Annually, the Get Fishing campaign introduces over 30,000 people to angling at hundreds of fun, safe and friendly events funded by the Environment Agency from fishing licence income. You can download this email as a Word Doc here: <https://anglingtrust.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/GFF-Press-Release-2023-Final.docx> Quotes from previously funded projects: Sue Galloway BEM, Northampton Nene Angling Club: "For me, this is what it's all about, creating these opportunities for children, young people, and their parents to try fishing and hopefully incorporating this into their lives to help them maintain a healthy wellbe-

ing." Ashley Bunning, SW Lakes Trust: "We have kicked off the Get Fishing events on our reservoirs. We had a fantastic time and all that attended thoroughly enjoyed it. It was great to get to see the participants who were a bit unsure at the start with what to expect from fishing, to then seeing them get full enjoyment when they caught their first fish." Mark Smedley, MS Angling and Education: "Children and staff attended our Get Fishing events together and have thoroughly enjoyed being out in the fresh air, socialising with each other and sharing knowledge and experiences. The Get Fishing Fund has allowed us to deliver these events where participants have learnt new skills, caught personal bests, built confidence, and have learnt to experiment with different baits and techniques."

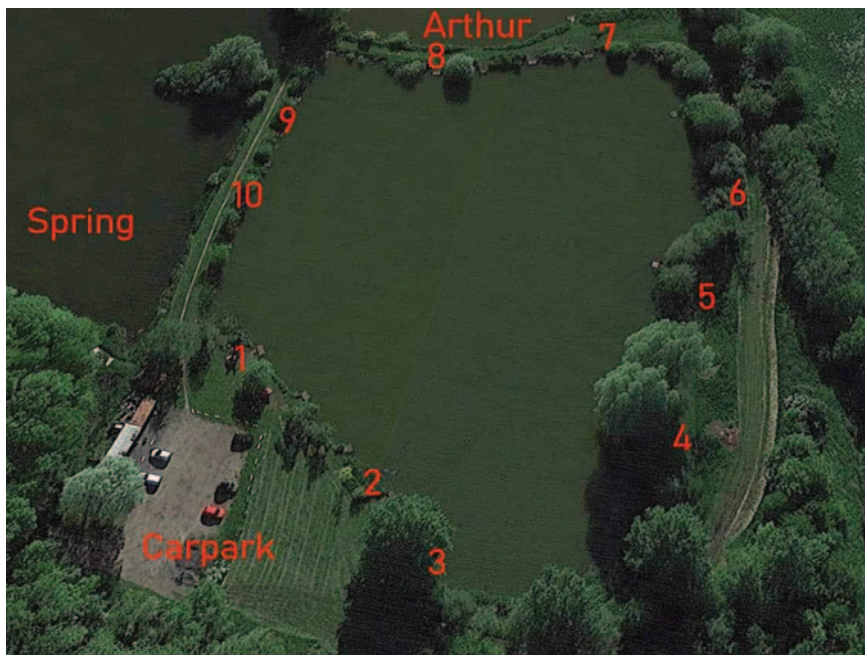
ORGANISED BY Angling Trust

Carpin' With Smudger Face book group by Paul Smith

Well, it all started 7 years ago from a village in Suffolk. Just at the time I wanted my own carp fishing group on Facebook. I was the only admin at the time, for a few months then added my nephew Karloff Knappett and my good friend Kevin Balaam who I met down Hinderclay lakes in Norfolk. I

only had a few members at the time, all local carp anglers, but with word and mouth and a lot of sharing the group soon developed to 500 in no time.

After a couple of years, we had our first decent social down Hinderclay lakes which I invited a lot of anglers







**Lake Heritage is
17 acres in size with
15 posts**

**It is set in a
beautiful location**

**We only do full,
exclusive lake
bookings, which is
£1600 per week**

**We have a huge stock
of quality carp, high
numbers of 30s, 40s,
and 50s, (currently
nine individual 60lb
plus fish to upper 60)**



Bookings call Mick Heritage 07806685005

For more information

Lake website www.lakeheritage.co.uk

We can be found on Facebook









to come down, I even had a good friend Gary Maddison who at the time was videoing different carp events and he said that he wanted to film 'Carpin with Smudger' which I thought it was a good idea.

Gary was invited to become admin for my team which he loved for many years then I got to know his mate Paul Munro so now I had another really good admin to keep the group running.

Now the group is in the 1k area and rising from all over the world and now I chat with them and share their captures on the group page.

In the last few years, we've been having more socials spring, summer,

and autumn which always the last one is the best with trophies and good friends who advertise their fishing business supplies prizes which I do appreciate them sending stuff over.

These social events are at Hinderclay lakes where I get permission off my good friend the boss of the complex Stuart Platt, excellent bloke, where the fish are coming out, the best swims and the best thing, he donated two of the trophy's for our event biggest carp caught in 24 hours and the most carp caught in 24 hours and also every year donate a prize.

I try every year to fill both lake's

and make social events good now we have BBQs teas which my good friend Kevin Balaam slaves over the BBQ and what an awesome BBQ it is.

With the group now over 2.1k from all over the world I've appointed another good friend Harry Tucker one of the best carp anglers I've seen for a lot of year's he has taught me a lot and even got me on the Ronnie rig which I been using ever since.

I would like to thank everyone who is involved with carpin with smudger and also Rob Maylin for letting me share my group in BC much appreciated.

Smudger, tight lines and wet nets.



Carpy Humour



Loei Jungle Fishing Lake Thailand with over 80 different Species of fish! The Lake the professional anglers choose!





Loei Jungle Fishing Lake

+66965324426

+66863496267

Loeijungle Fishing Lake

For more details check out our website -<https://loeijunglefishinglake.com>

Our monthly reviews on products currently on the market

In this issue:

- Geoff Anderson
- Nite Watches
- Nite Watches
- Nite Watches
- EDZ



Geoff Anderson – Urus Dozer Rough Black

Urus Rough
Black €399.95

Urus Rough
Black Jumbo X
€499.95

Dozer Rough
Black €499.95

Dozer Rough
Black Jumbo X
€599.95



Our well-known design developed for demanding fishing, whether it is from a boat or from a muddy bank. RAIN, MUD, WIND and BIG FISH. For use in extreme conditions. We have been producing Dozer and Urus for over 24 years.

With Rough being the most durable model ever. Experience a design adapted to demanding situations, with high functionality and comfort. That makes our Urus and Dozer Rough something special. Now in a black edition!

Embrace the allure of **ALL-BLACK AESTHETICS** and elevate your wrist game with our stunning selection of watches.



THE MX10

THE ULTIMATE FIELD WATCH



ALL-ADVENTURE HAWK
BUILT FOR EVERY TERRAIN



ALPHA

THE ULTIMATE DIVE WATCH



**TELL THE TIME,
ALL THE TIME.**

Every NITE Watch is fitted with Tritium illumination, widely regarded as the world's best and most reliable form of illumination.



Launching our Summer '23 edition of our classic dive watch;
THE ALPHA ORANGE



Tried and tested by
Pro-surfer and
NITE Maverick
HARRY TIMSON



300M WATER RESISTANCE

built to endure any ocean adventure.

Renowned for its strength and reliability the **ALPHAS 316L STAINLESS STEEL CASE**, orange dial and blue ceramic is paired with a **SWISS-MADE MOVEMENT**





LEATHERMAN®

40
YEARS

ARC®

Built with premium materials and features, the Leatherman ARC is the first-ever multi-tool to have a MagnaCut® steel blade with superior edge retention and durability.

With 20 tools, removable pocket clip, four-pocket nylon sheath, and eight double-ended bits, the durable, practical ARC sets the standard for now and the future for premium multi-tools.



Available online from: www.whitbyandco.co.uk



Nite Watches – End of Line 20% OFF
ENJOY 20% OFF SELECTED
ALPHA AND HAWK WATCHES.



These unique models, designed not to be replicated, will continue to be offered at a discounted price until they are completely sold out. Anticipating strong demand, we recommend securing yours promptly.

NITE

PROVEN THROUGH PASSION

NITE Watches are built to endure the elements, the ocean, the wind and the cold so they can be worn with confidence in every situation. Our community of wearers are relentless in pursuit of their passions, pushing themselves and our watches to their limits.

ALPHA WATCHES



Choose a steel or polymer strap for these 2 of our top Alpha Dive Watch variations. With a **unique waved white dial**, select your tritium colour variation to enable you to tell the time all the time. With its **316L stainless steel case** and **ceramic bezel**, the Alpha is our take on the classic dive watch. With strength at its core, the Alpha pairs a **Swiss-made movement** with a modern-day style that is just as at home on deep dive adventures as on dry land.

HAWK WATCHES



This white dial Hawk offer is supplied in the tried and tested **lightweight polycarbonate case**. Either keep it light with a Polymer strap, with a total weight of 70g or go for the Stainless steel bracelet option at 162g. Either way, the Hawk is our **rugged all-terrain watch** fit for any adventure.



EDZ
THE OLD SORTING OFFICE
92 HIGH STREET, MARYPORT
CUMBRIA, CA15 6BE, UK

T: +44 (0)1900 810260
E: custsvs@edz.co.uk

MELLBECK LTD T/A EDZ
REG NO. 3001478
VAT NO. GB633 4992 20

www.edz.co.uk

EDZ Press Release

06/10/2023

Fingerless Gloves

an essential accessory for the connected age?



Outdoors

Much of the time fingerless gloves are all that are needed on a cold day with the advantage of greater dexterity and the ability to work touch screen devices.

Home office

With many of us working from home, struggling to afford heating, fingerless gloves help stop hands getting cold when sitting at a keyboard all day.

Driving

Most new cars have touch screen driver interfaces which won't work with traditional driving gloves.

EDZ offer two types of fingerless glove,

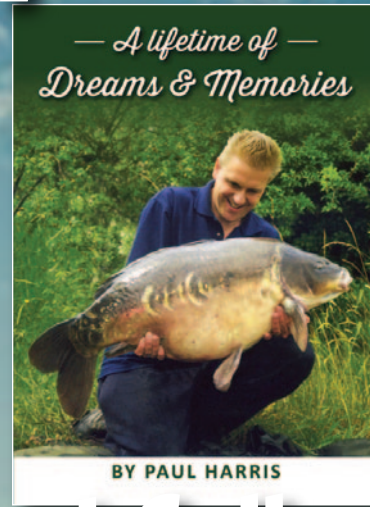
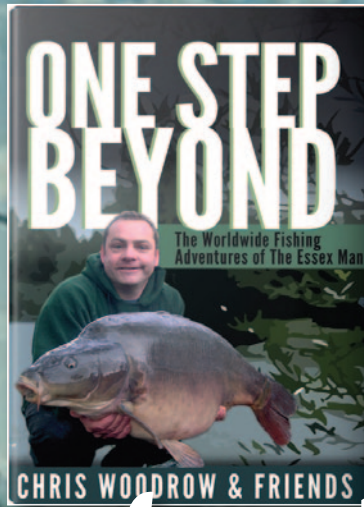
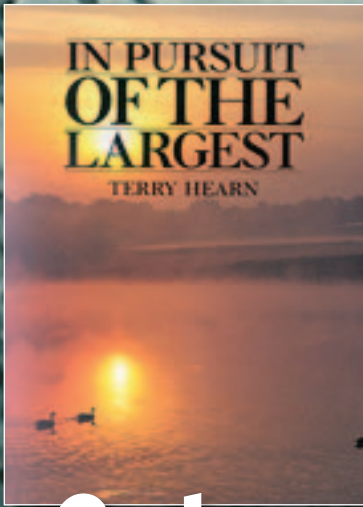
EDZ Merino Fingerless Gloves
Red, blue, green, grey or black
Sizes S, M-L & XL
£12.99

EDZ Silk Fingerless Gloves
Grey, Navy or Black,
One size fits most
£14.99

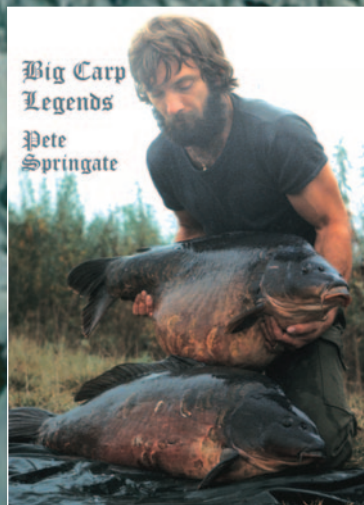
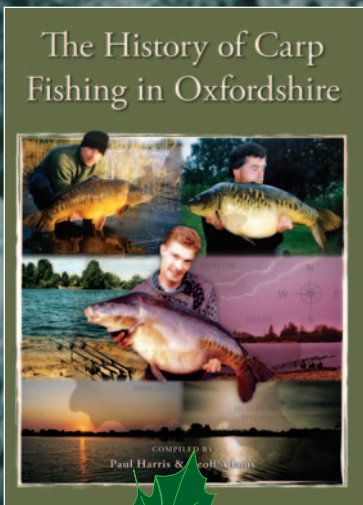
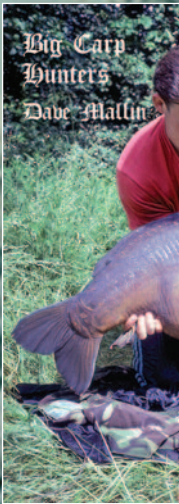
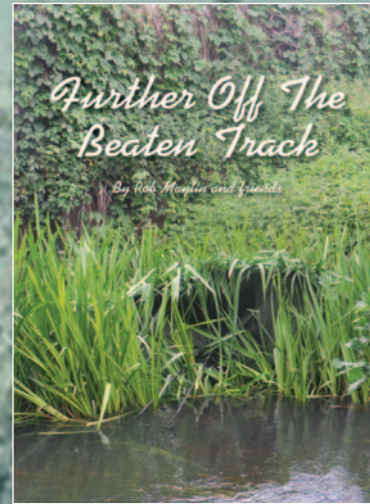
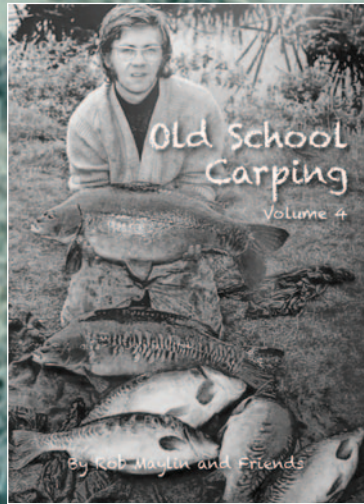
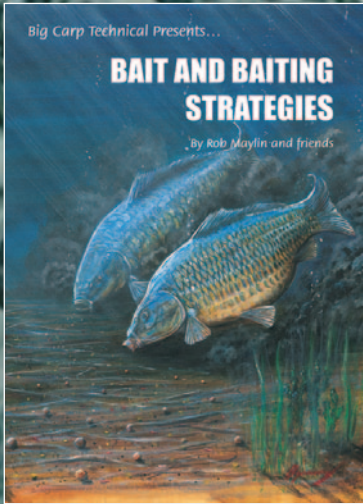
Available on [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com) and EDZ.co.uk

If you would like more information or samples for review / features, please get in touch.
Contact: James Tilleard james@edz.co.uk tel 01900 810260

Warm Away the Cold

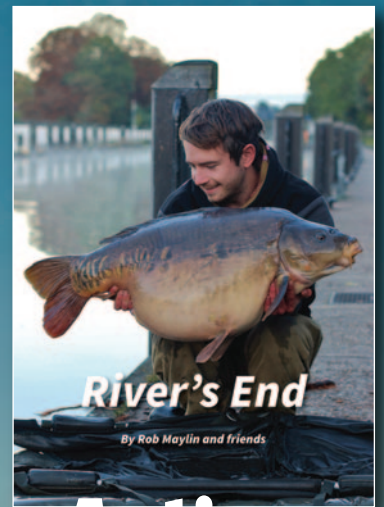
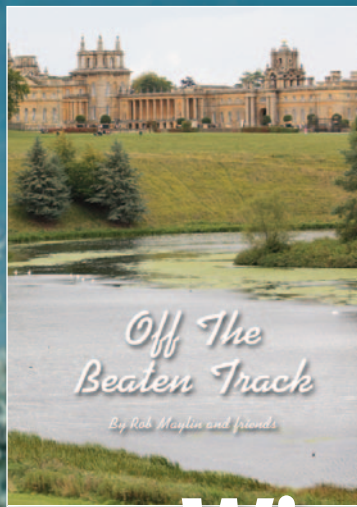


Order one of our Best Sellers and

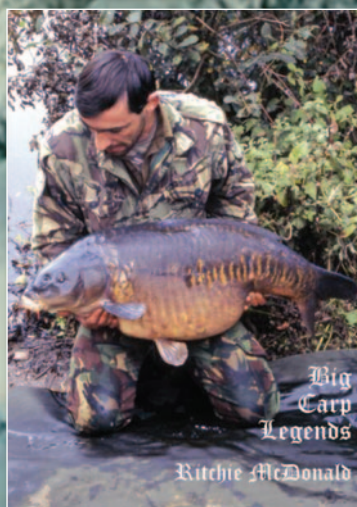
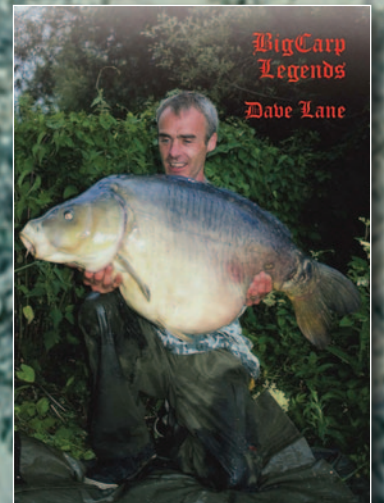
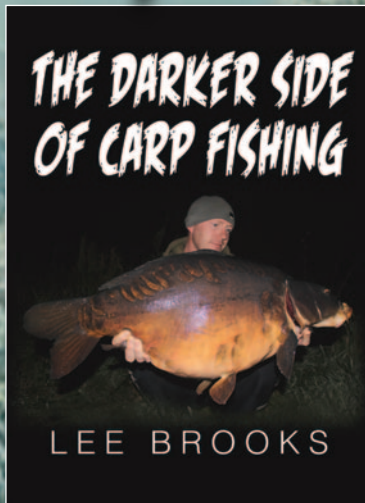


NEW BOOKS www.bigcarpma
NEW AND OLD BOOKS: www.ebay

and Weather This Year



get ready for some Winter Action



gazine.co.uk/online-shop.html

.co.uk/usr/rarecarpbooksunlimited





Alan Cooper catch report

It's finally happened, after 11 years I finally got to hold the Forgotten Mirror from Long Lake, all 46lb of her! My time on the lake has now come to an end, after this session is done then I'm off for at least three years.

Zac Walton catch report

If Carlsberg did carp! One of the A team ticked off the list! Squid squad!!



Tom Wood catch report

Congratulations to Tom Wood who banked this stunning 45lb 2oz mirror known as 'Olie the otter dodger' from an undisclosed water. Tom has been having great success over the last few months using a mixture of particles and Cell boilies which he's covering with loads of Cell Smart Liquid. Happy days, Tom.

PB Alert for Ed

Well done to Ed catching his PB mirror from the Big Lake! Here is BIG TONY weighing in at 36lb. That's another PB and another happy angler on the banks of Suffolk Water Park. Call the shop to book on - 01473 832327.



Chris Belcher catch report

Well done to Chris Belcher on an awesome little session at his local syndicate water. He told us: "I planned on giving the Warren some serious time as I haven't fished it properly in 15years, other than some surface fishing few years back. My first night back couldn't have gone any better with mirrors of 19 and 27lb, followed up with a 32lb mirror on dark. Through the night two more bites with fish of 23 and 31. Then as I was packing up for work at 6:30am the following morning a double take resulting in fish of 33lb 12oz and 36lb 10oz. Seven fish and four 30s. A happy welcome back!" It certainly was, Chris. Great angling.



Andrew Morrison catch report

Urban Bait team member Andrew Morrison has been catching some absolute beauties from his Cambridgeshire syndicate. Andrew used a combination of Nutcracker boilie and pellet land this monster known as Charlie's Mate. The stunning old mirror weighed 47lb 8oz and came part of a catch of good fish, top angling Andrew!



Steve Ackland catch report

Steve Ackland, on his first trip back to Long Lake since May. He managed to bank a new personal best weighing 46lb 2oz. Steve's daughter gave him a lucky charm bracelet earlier this year... You can see it on his right wrist if you zoom in. Clearly, white S2 and lucky charms for the win. Well done Steve



Benn Oconnor catch report

New personal best of 40lb 10oz – Casper. Just can't believe it guys, just had Casper from Coking Farm at 40lb 10oz, a new personal best ghostly. I've certainly stepped in something this season. What a fight. She would not come in. Up and down the margin, to be fair I thought it was a catfish! Steamies new krill and bloodworm barrels fished over a kilo of krill and bloodworm barrels along with a 3oz smlead dumpy pear lead, really enjoying my time up here and just can't seem to go wrong, all has been filmed and ready for Benn's angle on YouTube.



Jordan Pashley catch report

It's that time of year when big hits of bait can pay off, and pay off it did for Jordan Pashley over the last few days. Not only did he bank this crusty old mirror of 43lbs 1oz, he braced it with another mirror of 41lbs 15oz! What a brace! Large beds of The Krill Active, Bloodworm Pellets, and particles were the downfall of the big mirrors.



Steve Cock catch report

Mr Consistent Steve Cock spent 48hrs on Chilham Mill and landed a new UK personal best in the shape of the very sort after mirror known as Top Scales at 44lb 6oz. Steve also landed a 26.12 mirror to complete what ended up being a very memorable trip for our well-respected team member! Infusion Wafers over mixed pellets & Infusion Boilies were his choice of bait for the trip.




James Lovell-Butt catch report

Single scale at 44lb 4oz. To say I was buzzing to catch give or take the biggest fish in the lake and probably one that's up there that doesn't make many appearances on the bank! Well, I'm still buzzing now! Linchill Fishery is a very special place not only fishing for some of the best carp in the country but the people there we had too many laughs on this trip with these lads! I blame Coxy for most of it. What a trip and what a fish.

For custom work



Alarms and indication accessories



3K Carbon Bankware



As unique as you



Find us



Online purchases –
www.kudostackle.com

Custom made
to your preference
in the UK

Email –
info@kudostackle.com

WhatsApp/text/Telgram
0776020260148



Paul Bacon catch report

A funny trip last week to the big lake, Arriving with a plan. I started the trip in a swim on a fresh westerly wind. It was 24 hours in I could see the fish just were not moving on the wind, I moved to the opposite side of the lake and fish long range over 15kg of bait into deep water, 24 hours in on the new peg with Fish showing on and all around me I had a funny feeling that the fish were just not going to get onto the large bed of that was out there. I could've easily sat on my hands and just waited for the bites to come, but I decided to leave one rod in the middle of the bait and change tactics completely with the other two rods and fish solid bags around the area where I had seen Fish showing. That turned the session around completely. Over the next 48 hours I had 14 bites 11 fish. The change of tactics was Fishing DNA crayfish Minimix solid bags, cast around the area every two hours injected with DNA bug food liquid, Short 4inch hook lengths inside the bags, Hookbait was Bug Hardhookers topped off with a Wraysberry pop up, A selection of the fish landed up to 45lb.



Rob Saunders catch report

Rob Saunders had a chance to do a rare 48hrs on The Carp Society's Farriers syndicate - so after a lap of the lake the fish were showing well in the middle so he picked a swim which doesn't get a lot of pressure but gave him access to the area they were showing. After introducing about 2kg of Cell and mark 1 Boilies to a shallow weed free stop at 70yards Rob banked 8 carp including two over forty pounds. Top bombing, mate



Luke Vallory catch report

Luke Vallory's been getting amongst them the last month or so, catching several really cool carp on his ever-faithful tactics, spinner rigs with size 4 Spinner Hooks on Heli Safes, fished over low lying silk-weed with a minimal spread of bait and match the hatch shrimp



Martin Wassell catch report

Mr Consistent doing what Mr Consistent does, dropping in with another outrageous piece of angling and yet another incredible result. Martin had set up in a swim, but after an uneventful 24 hours, decided a move may be on the cards, so went on a wonder where he found a few hanging out in a small bay. A hurried pack down was followed by the favourite combo being sent out among the fish and not before long, Martin had a brace of 31's on the bank, making the move worthwhile. Who knew what was to come next, as the alarm burst in to life, Martin was in to a heavier, slower fish and after a dogged battle, this incredible 46lbs 8oz giant was in the photo booth! Mega angling Martin!



James Constantine catch report

When a plan comes together. After giving his chosen area consistent big hits of Krill soaked in the new Pure Squid Liquid, the carp soon found James Constantine's bait and it was only going to be a matter of time before it perked up the interest from some of the bigger ones. Big bank holiday buzz with a brute of a common to show for his efforts, all 52lb 4oz of it!



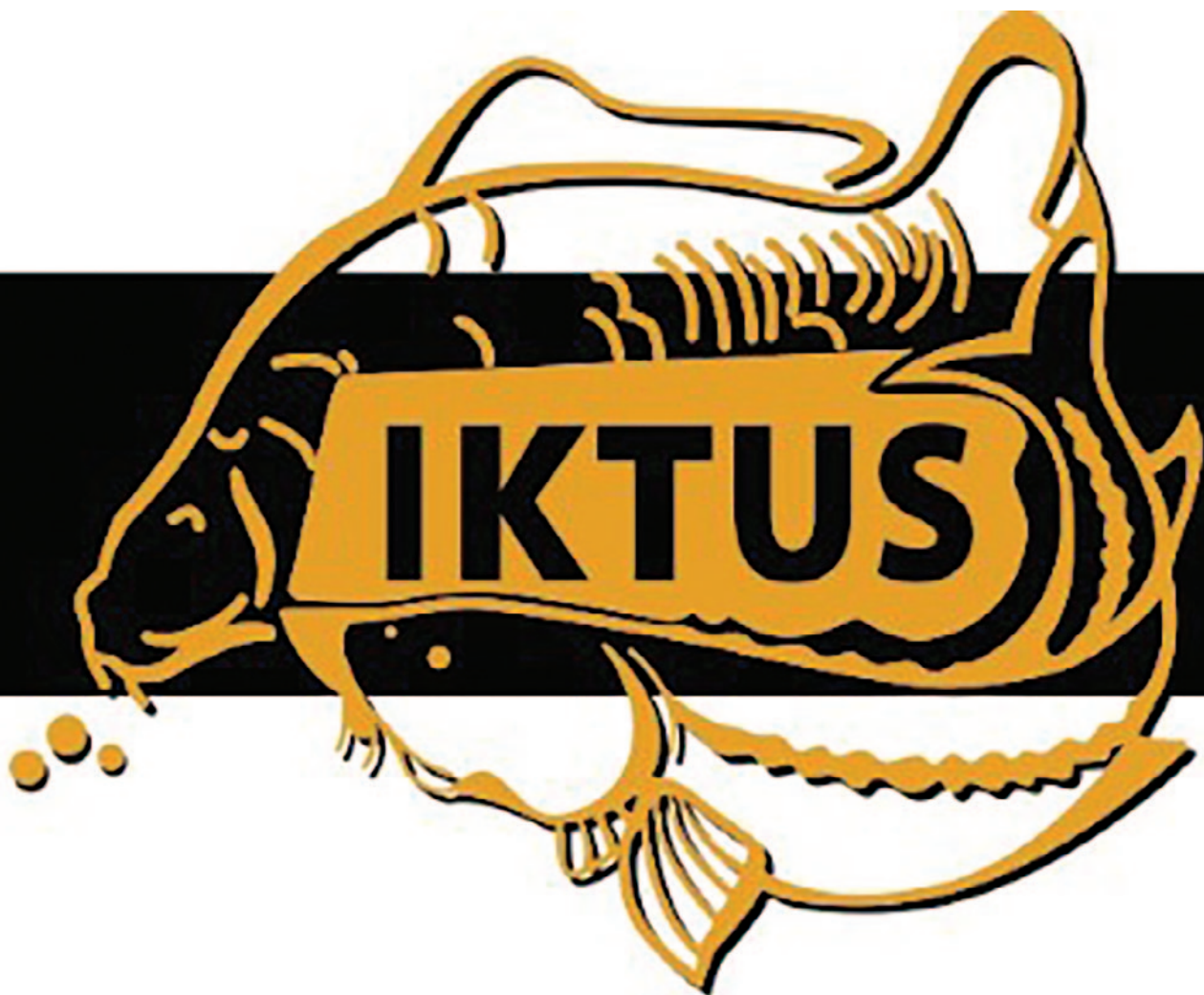
Corey banks three PB's in the same session!

Daniel Daneshi took his son Corey on his first 24 hours at Farlows Lake One and it went better than they had dreamed of. Between the two of them they managed 12 fish with Corey catching eight. He also managed to beat his personal best three times during the trip with fish of 27lbs, 30lbs 2oz and 31lbs 4oz - All the fish were caught on Quads hookbaits and Spod & PVA Pellet Mix along with the new test bait mix with added sweetcorn. Congratulations, Corey.



Lee Randall catch report

Probably my favourite so far from the Essex Manor the Pound Coin at 45lb 6oz.



FISHING RESORT



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



Dan Elliott catch report

Dane Elliott has been having some great action over on Kingsmead 1 over the last few weeks banking some exceptional carp. Just this last weekend he banked 6 fish including the K1 leather at 34lb, one of the old ones he has been wanting for a while. A mega scaly mirror at 36lb with a 35lber and a 38lb 8oz to back it up and topped off by a team member Moonscale at 43lb. Cell and Hybrid combination with Cell cork ball pop ups his bait selection. Well done, Dane.



Benn Oconnor catch report

What a trip to coking farm , the mighty big linear from oak lake at 46lb 2oz , what a complex really enjoyed my trip on here, ploughing through fish after fish and biggest one ended what was fantastic trip , all has been filmed and witnessed and everyone can see the whole thing happen on benns angle on YouTube, lots of videos on coking farm on this channel so subscribe to benns angle to watch oak , meadow and rush lake , wanna thank Chris , Alan , Matt and the team in cafe for a lovely stay , lovely trip and great food I'm on cloud 9 thank you coking farm.



Rob Nunn catch report

I am not really one for target fish but this is definitely one I wanted and what a brute of a common weighing in at 47lb 10oz. And conditions are perfect so hopefully another is on the cards.



Chris Bromley catch report

Chris Bromley with 'Rosie' from The Woolpack, weighing 45lb 8oz. Caught on one of our GPB1 crushed cork pop ups, fished over Creamino freezer baits. Well done Chris, on limited time, you have caught some absolute Worldies this year. Great angling mate.



Chris Wilby catch report

Manilla has had a formidable track record on The Folly syndicate, so it came to no surprise when Chris Wilby was lighten up our inbox with capture after capture this summer and ultimately led to his target. A summer to remember for sure.



Gary Norton catch report

42lb Lea Valley banger.



Mitch Plowman catch report

Fifty up for Mitch. Congratulations to Mitch Plowman on the capture of this 51lb 8oz mirror from Horton. He told us: "I decided to go fishing this weekend for a couple of nights, it's been a very long time and wasn't really feeling it with being so busy but forced myself to get down to RK Leisure and relight the flame as such. Pretty glad I did, and although being a recapture I'll take this as my second UK 50! Absolutely made up, was great to see an old friend come to visit and shared with a couple of great lads. 'Scar' at 51lb 8oz" Well done, Mitch.



Matt Eaton catch report

Long term Mainline man Matt Eaton recently visited Sandhurst Lake for a feature with Total Carp magazine, catching four lovely carp for the cameras. This scaly stunner and a dark mirror came on white Cell Fluro pop-ups over a kilo of 15mm Cell freezer baits, whilst the same hookbaits over a spod mix accounted for the other two, including this immaculate 38lb 8oz common. Matt's mix included whole, chopped and crumbed Cell, corn, Response pellets, Spod and PVA Pellet Mix and Activated Cell High Impact Groundbait, which was enhanced with Cell Smart Liquid and Multi-Stim. Awesome, Matt.

Mitchell Millet catch report

Big up to Mitchell Miller on the capture of this big common from Frimley Pit 3. He told us: "After not having a lot of time to get down Frimley the last few months, I finally managed to squeeze a 48hour session in, which was my first back at Frimley for 3 months. I spent the first morning taking my time to look for signs of feeding or shows, it wasn't long before I found fish feeding in three different swims, so I watched each swim for a while, and I would have been happy with any of them, but taking the extra time to watch each swim, I noticed in one the bubbling was just that little bit more aggressive and for slightly longer periods of time. So, I got my gear to the swim and took my time setting up as I knew the best chance would be in the night or the morning. The first carp was a 29lb 14oz common and then on the last morning I had this lovely 42lb 4oz common, which was taken on Salty Squid wafter over a scattering of a new test bait." Well done, Mitchell.



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 overnights at the specimen lake.



Visit us on Facebook

www.cooleacresfishery.co.uk

07899 735052

cooleacresfishery1@gmail.com





James Cox catch report

Stoneacres gold for James Cox; worth all the tough times and countless hours looking to outwit those priceless Oxfordshire carp.



Lee Wheeler catch report 02

Second Night, Job Done – Lee Wheeler

I found a group of carp working a shallow area out in the open water. After a bit of lead work in the vicinity, I found a nice flat patch, of the side of the main feature. 4oz flat pears on Heli Safes combined with long Kable Leadcore leaders, where I rigged up with my normal bottom bait rig, incorporating a size 4 Wide Gape X and shrink tube kicker, line-aligner style with a no.4 shot positioned just beneath the shrink tube, on the break of the N Trap. A match the hatch hookbait was fished over a tight bed of boilies, with the spot just being a few feet wide, Lee kept his baiting as compact as possible. The traps were set and the biggun was Lee's, on just his second night at over 46lb.



James Geary catch report

James Geary with Two-tone at 41lb 1oz from Little Moulsham.



Blackthorn Fishery Water report

I feel like we should put a disclaimer in this post to say 'Blackthorn is not a runs water, it's a big fish 'specimen water' for the experienced angler, and even for the seasoned angler it can be very difficult at times (which we make everyone aware of regularly). Managing expectation is high on our agenda. Greg has managed to land 8 fish this weekend though! Averaging 30lb. The biggest being this fish which gets him into the 40+ gallery for the second time (weighing in at 47lb 2oz). It was pitch black but we couldn't resist suggesting a water shot, which Greg was well up for! Maybe we will see this fish go 50 yet, time will tell.

The mirror is also his new UK PB, so we are chuffed to bits for him. The weights of his weekend were: 47.2 mirror, 30.13 mirror (new 30 for the venue taking us up to 47 x 30+), 30.02 common, 28.1 mirror, 27.3 mirror, 26 common, 25.8 mirror, 25.1 mirror. Great angling Greg!

We have some availability from mid-October on the main lake and from November on the Pines. Drop us a PRIVATE MESSAGE, if you're interested in booking a carping lodge holiday.



Richard Foster catch report

Very pleased to see this fish out caught by Neil at 40lb 12oz very happy for Neil hopefully some more fish might go 40 plus this year



Myles Gibson catch report

Throwing it back to a significant capture from The Krill Active archives; Myles Gibson with Leon's at over 47lb. Just one of many unforgettable moments created during the development process from years gone by.



Lee Wheeler catch report

Lee Wheeler cradling one of Cartha's finest, still one of our favourite shots from his destructive campaign on the tricky Lea Valley pit. Accuracy proving key in his approach, locating small feeding patches amongst the weed, and presenting his go to bottom bait rig, incorporating a size 4 Wide Gape X with a long length of shrink tube fished line-aligner style on a 7-inch N Trap link. A balanced tiger over a tight patch of hemp and tiger the winning tactic.



Jay Willis catch report

Well after a crazy night over at Wharf Pool last night which ended in 6 fish I finally got the bite I'd been dreaming of. I had been told that he battled hard and after a few minutes in I had a suspicion it was him. Black Spot, all 55lb 6ozs of him! Big thanks to @bja88 @adsreed for the pics and @cramer_jamie for the help. I may have a glass of wine this evening! #kordaoofficial.



Keith Pickett catch report

Well done to Keith Pickett who just returned from a short stint on the Chilston Stour syndicate where he banked seven carp the biggest tipping the scales around to 43lb. Loads of Cell boilies with matching hookbaits working wonders yet again. Awesome, Keith.

Do you have a recent catch that you'd like to share?
Send you picture and info to:
bigcarpmagazine@hotmail.com

Mick Heritage Joins the 60+ Club!!

Hi Rob , here are a couple of photos of the fish I caught, it's know as 'Tarte Aux Pomme' , the French named it as on their apple pies they put a big layer of pastry on the top and they said the scales look like it. It was 67lb 4oz



Lawrence East catch report

Last night's reward, my sixth forty-pounder of the year and biggest so far at 46lb 15oz



**Fine quality fishing tackle
since 1857**

www.reubenheaton.com

For more on Reuben Heaton, Sportscale & RH brands
call 01455 293000 or email 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**

Laney's

Featuring Gordy Howes

Big congratulations to Gordy Howes on the capture of the fantastic 56lb 4oz UK mirror. He told us: "After an awful spring fishing the shallow lake on the St Ives complex, then early summer on the Lagoon also kicking me in the rear, I decided, after a holiday to get back on shallow, as my target from the lagoon had been out twice in quick succession just prior to my trip. Week one was uneventful, during week two I caught a 20+ mirror, on a Activ-8 snowman, 18 and 15mm.

Week three saw drifting filamentous algae causing big problems with line lay. Then, after a few days the wind managed to move the offending green goo to an extent where it was possible to fish effectively. Resulting in the biggest on the complex, 'Laney's' out for the first time this year at a top weight of 56lb 4oz. unbelievable!

She took a liking to a single Cell Cork Dust Pop-Up all on its lonesome. Big thanks to Mainline for the ongoing support to myself and the fishery! Buzzing right now!" Absolutely brilliant, Gordy.



Oak Lakes Fisheries

www.oaklakesfisheries.co.uk



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



Two hours into a recent session this cracker caught at 20lbs 6oz by Pipe lake member Brian Milton.



21lb 10oz, lovely fish.



Another early morning catch for Gary Pearman and his favoured black pepper and caviar from A.M. Bait Services.



32lbs 9oz for Mark Sinclair. To quote Mark, he said 'happy days'.



Stunning common – 23lbs 2oz for Steve Greenwood.



Not weighed, but the money is on the 18lbs mark.



Another great carp from the day ticket lake caught by Craig Sexton. Don't let the Pipe Lake members see all these nice catches!



25lbs common for Ricky Collett. Nice catch.



Thanks James Woodley for your mid-water photo from the day ticket lake. Beauty!



New UK PB for Gary Pearman and his old faithful black pepper and caviar recently. Known as Jensen's Common – weight 3 lbs 2oz.



Top angling, Craig Sexton who supplied this photo of this beautiful day ticket lake common.



Andy Tallis back again. Nice to see you but will you be back again? Lol.

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.

Exclusive

The Four Seasons of Redmire

Written by Levi Rees



Over the last three years I've been more than privileged to have fished the historic Redmire Pool on four occasions and each time in a different season of the year, so I've seen all the different colours of the pool. The drab blues and greys of winter, the yellows and fresh greens of spring, the vibrant summer with blue skies and a blanket of weed all over the pools surface right the way through to the autumn where I've witnessed the browns and oranges of the decaying leaves.

Many could dream to fish the pool once but I've been more than lucky having snapped up cancellations in quick time, auctions at carp shows and even getting through on phone wars day. I've had my wits about me and made some wonderful memories on the pool with some great company and catching some magnificent carp of which are decedents of the original "Redmire" strain of carp.

The restoration work and continuous work parties done at the pool is

on another level and is quite an example of how a water should be kept without tarnishing its nature or feel which I think is key this day of age especially with all the knowledge we have to hand. Les Bamford and his team of helpers are a testament to the pool and its future, they've done a great job of preserving the history and feel of the pool. Albeit a farcry from what many would of seen in the magazines and books back in the day the future of the pool is bright and in the best hands possible.

The first time I fished the pool was in February 2022, to my amazement we'd had quite a mild winter and leading up to my session on the pool we had spring sort of weather for a week or so. This only helped with my confidence as on a shallow body of water having plenty of sunshine and warmth can be the key ingredient to getting a carp in the net. When I turned up I immediately got up the trees to see if the carp would be sunning themselves and they most certainly were. I found a "pod" of carp maybe ten or twelve sizable carp on





the surface lapping up the unwinter like sunshine, I quickly ran around to where I'd seen them which was "Pitchfords" and deployed some Zigs just under the surface. The day drew out and I'd changed the rods back to fish on the bottom over some bait after the Zig rigs didn't produce. I found myself staying up into the early hours soaking in the feel of the pool and waiting for the ghostly happenings to begin but in the end I found myself listening to carp boshing down the dam end. The next morning I was up and on my toes finding myself pushing my barrow along the dam and into "Walkers Pitch" next to the boat house I almost had to pinch myself with the feeling that I was walking in the shoes of some of carp anglings biggest icons. I ended up fishing typical winter tactics of high visual pop ups fanned over the area of which I'd hear the carp showing, the rain set in for the night as I huddled underneath the broolly for my last night on the pool and brimming with confidence that I'd got all those little one percents in my favour this time around.

I awoke the next morning to carp ever so gently showing over the area I'd heard them showing in the hours of darkness and I was counting down



the time I had to leave the pool. Having seen probably ten to fifteen shows over the zone I was praying one of the delkim's would sing the tune before I packed up. Hours passed by and I felt as if the chance was diminishing but out of nowhere as I sat staring at the pool my middle rod picked up ever so slowly and I was into my first Redmire Pool carp, the fight was slow and plodding and I stood there shaking with excitement when I managed to pick up another one of my lines I'd got the carp in fairly close and by this time my angling partner Pete had come around to give me a hand as he could see I was in a pickle. There wasn't a lot I could do so I gave the rod to Pete and I waded out to where the fish wallowed and with one scoop of the net I'd Landed my first one from the pool. I looked down into the net to find myself staring at a rather large common and I could only think about the historical moments on the pool where Dick Walker and Chris Yates had done the same as me and had those same feelings as I felt in that moment. I'd managed to land myself a 25lb 14oz common on my first trip to the pool. Elated would of been an understatement as I drove home with a grin from ear to ear. Keen to get back to the pool and get more Redmire magic I kept my eye on the Internet and ear to the ground for cancellations.

The next chance I had came from getting a little lucky on the day of phone wars. Les had told me I didn't have much option when it came to booking availability so I opted for as close to spring as possible which was early on in March 2023. I'd gone about the session the same as last time getting up the trees and keeping and eye out so I could really dial into the location of the carp, they seemed

really active with the weather looking on the up for spring. The carp were "clouding up" and "fizzing" on a few different patches along "bramble island" down towards "Inghams". I'd done a night in "Walkers pitch" thinking they'd move down to the deeper water in the night like the previous time I was on the pool but they didn't play to the same tune as I'd wanted. I'd reeled in and gone for a gander, I





found the same as the day before the fish were doing the same thing in front of "bramble island" down towards "Inghams" again so I opted to fish "bramble island" for the first time. Having watched a passion for angling the nostalgia and feeling of walking in the steps of giants was very surreal as I envisioned Chris Yates floater fishing off bramble island. I flicked out hinge rigs on high visual pop ups with light leads hoping to keep the disturbance to an absolute minimum. The next morning the carp were in front of me and the odd one was showing where out of nowhere I had a one toner from the old delkim and I was in for my second time on the pool. I played this fish steady and had to go on my knees to play it under the bushes and trees over hanging from the small island, I got it all the way in and then it turned and I saw it was a common again, my heart was in my mouth and with one swift scoop I'd landed my second Redmire carp at a weight of 18lb's. Again I drove Home from the pool beaming from ear to ear and feeling like I wanted to get back as quick as possible.

I was very lucky to pick up a third session on the pool after getting through the phone wars again and this time I had bagged myself a summer session where I could see Redmire in its full flourish of flowers and weed. I wasn't disappointed as when I turned up it looked more like a cricket pitch than it did a lake. I had planned for this though with a little bucket of pva bags already made up to flick into the holes in the weed. I also had my floater rod and a bucket of floating pellets and dog biscuits to see if I could fabricate a situation off the top. The previous anglers on the pool had done a very good job of catching a good proportion of the stock so what was left to be caught was some very paranoid carp and this was showing in their behaviour in every way you could think. The surface fishing proved very tricky, where the odd one would pick a mixer and disappear completely, it was all very spontaneous where the carp would pop up and it was frustrating to say the least. I retreated to sitting up the trees watching them and trying to figure out a route of travel to place little solid bags in their way and hopefully nick a bite that way. As light was fading





ing on Saturday evening I had a screaming take on a rod I'd cast into a very very small hole in the weed, I won't say how many solid bags I cast into the hole but it was a lot!. The fish was up on the surface from the off and came in pretty quick, it was nothing to shout about being a three or four pound Redmire common but it was a Redmire Carp after all and that's the part of the puzzle I wanted, after catching that one it's all about sitting back and soaking it all in.

My fourth and final session came from the Auction at the Carp society carp show on Horseshoe lake where nobody placed any bids at all so the next day I rung Les and offered to pay the full price for the slot which he was happy for me to fill. My final time on the pool I feel and for it to complete the Seasons of Redmire is only something I could of dreamt of. Autumn has only just begun and the weather has been up and down with almost summer like weather still hanging on. On

arrival to the pool it was quickly evident that it was going to be tricky due to the vast amount of algae covering the surface of 90% of the pool.

I formulated a plan which was to get an old spod and put sticks through it to create some holes in the algae surface weed so I could present a bait in the holes I'd created. It worked a treat as not long after baiting up with some boillie it was fizzing up like no tomorrow, it went on like that for the rest of the session and after playing with different presentations it begun to dawn on me they were one step ahead of me once again.

I'd noticed an area on previous sessions where the fish would travel and drop down to feed regularly and it was in the swim next door so I opted to fish the rod on its on in that swim, a little solid bag flicked out in the clear area I could see was dispatched and not long later it was away with a small common. More than likely

spawned on from the summers spawning activity, a great sign for the pool. This was all I managed in my autumn session but witnessing the mist rolling off the water and hearing the fishing crashing in the hours of darkness was amazing. I never get tired of the challenge the pool puts in front of me every time I go there, I prepare myself and plan ahead to the point where I'm extremely confident but it always throws up an element of surprise I didn't expect or prepare for and that's part of the pool which I love.

The pool has got an aurora that's hard to really describe, it's mature and thriving in every way you'd imagine. To be in a place of such heritage and history and be able to leave my own little mark is a privilege. You never know, the way the carp spawn in the pool and the rich environment they live in it just might just produce something of epic proportions one day once again. ■



Boilie Crumb – An Autumn/ Winter Edge

Featuring Luke Vallory

Boilies are often regarded as a one-type approach bait, stereotyped as a 'big spread, big hookbait' style, but for me, they offer so much more.

Boilie crumb and chops play a vital role in my baiting all year, but even more so through autumn and winter. For the last few months, I've been using a 50:50 boilie mix combining SAS Squid and Shrimp, mixed with a few grains of corn. This mix is not only full of colour and flavour, but also easily digestible, something that is particularly important through the colder months.

With the cool water temperatures, the carp become a lot more lethargic in their movements, so bait that is easily digestible is not only going to be better for the carp, but also going to help you.



When using crumb on deep pits in windy conditions, or where there is an undertow present, then I refine

from using crumb and prefer to use chops and bigger pieces, just to ensure the bait gets down to the spot and doesn't spread away from the spot. Adding the liquid from your corn or just a small dash or lake water will help get the crumb down to the lakebed faster.

Using crumb allows you to use less boilie, yet still offer the carp more items to actually feed on, and when using bits and pieces, you don't need loads of bait. At this time of year, just a couple to half dozen spombs is often enough, topping up after each bite. I favour using small hookbaits (12mm pop ups) over crumb, usually presented on a Spinner Rig with a size 4 Krank.

I like to use a washed out hookbait, favouring a pale yellow or orange colour, where I've done really well using white baits, soaked in Pineapple Goo.

Once in the water, they turn to a lovely dull yellow, perfect for high pressured carp at this time of year.





Exclusive Boilie Crumb – An Autumn/Winter Edge

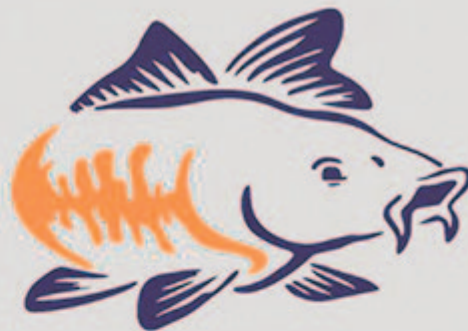




Exclusive Boilie Crumb – An Autumn/Winter Edge



Fishing Show Winter Carp 2023



BIG NEWS FOR ALL CARP ANGLERS!

**THE MOMENT YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR IS FINALLY HERE!
WE ARE THRILLED TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE WINTER CARP
SHOW 2023 WEBSITE AND TICKET SALES ARE NOW LIVE!**

DECEMBER 2ND AND 3RD, 2023, AT SANDOWN PARK, ESHER.

Get your tickets NOW and take advantage of our LIMITED VIP tickets with a special gift....

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT AT THE WINTER CARP SHOW 2023?

INDUSTRY GIANTS:

Rub shoulders with the legends of the fishing world, as they share their wisdom, stories and secret techniques for reeling in the big ones.

MASSIVE LINE-UP OF EXHIBITORS:

Explore an extensive array of fishing gear, equipment and accessories from top-notch brands.

EXPERT TALKS & SHOWS:

Dive deep into the world of fishing with expert talks and captivating shows. Learn from the best in the business including the legend Ali Hamidi Angler himself.



**HURRY AND VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO GRAB YOUR TICKETS NOW:
WWW.THEWINTERCARPSHOW.CO.UK/BUY-TICKETS**

This show is an experience you won't want to miss, so spread the word, tell your fishing buddies, and let's make The Winter Carp Show 2023 an unforgettable angling adventure!

Pingewoods Floppy Tail

By Carl Udry

Sometimes it can be just a small snippet of historical insight that can lead you on to opening up an opportunity to nail a specific special carp. It's all about putting those odds in your favour and then clearly a bit of Lady Luck.

Living a stone's throw away from Reading, I did dabble on a couple of the Reading and District Angling Association (RDAA) waters that are strung along the M4 corridor when I first started carp fishing. But that feels like moons ago now and I really didn't scrape the surface. I have always stayed in touch with what three particular lakes have to offer though (Pingewood, Farnham Flint and Englefield Lagoon).

After a busy week at work in late May, I was really looking forward to a



36hr session on one of these three waters. With new targets in all three, initially my approach is to turn up with an open mind and have a quick mooch around all three until I see something that takes my fancy. With all three historic pits within very close proximity to each other, it makes that very doable.

I actually bought my RDAA ticket just before opting to return to Wellington Country Park for one more season. I did do a handful of sessions on Pingewood before returning to Welly, funnily enough I managed to brace two carp to 36lb 2oz from a peg called the lawns on my last outing.

It was during that session the largest carp in the lake (Floppy Tail) was caught across the lake from where I was situated. I spent hours watching the water through binoculars between me and its captor, as certain areas were very active with feeding carp. It was no surprise he like me, went on to catch as the fish were predominantly feeding in a tight area in front of a peg called motorway point opposite lawns.

With this being my first session back on RDAA after a 12-month absence and all-weather conditions being almost identical to my last trip almost a year to the day. During the fairly short drive over from Thatcham, I did wonder if Pinge and specifically the motorway point could be worth a look.

The RDAA complex offers numerous parking options and I opted for Pingewood as a starting point. A quick eyes cast across to the motorway point and it looked empty. In fact, only one other angler was present on the whole lake. I therefore instantly applied my attention to Pinge and obviously started in the obvious swim. It felt perfect and I just needed a couple of positive sightings. With the light starting to go, I opted to use a light 1.5oz dumpy lead to carefully find some spots in the likely zones based on what I observed a year previous. A few drops and retrievals, I was able to locate clearish areas amongst an unsuspecting bed of eelgrass. I then switched to using a rigged-up rod with a critically balanced hinged stiff rig. Repeating the process to the clipped-up areas, thus ensuring a clean retrieval further cementing my confidence I would be presented. With no positive carp



Exclusive Pingewoods Floppy Tail



sightings, I opted to flick out two rods on simple multi rigs and the third on a hinged stiff rig to this zone. All on helicopter set up with the bead pushed up around twelve inches. I then quietly got away with spreading one hundred or so 20mm baits using a throwing stick. All washed out, then rehydrated with diluted Calanus liquid.

After a quiet night, kettle was on, and the first coffee of the morning consumed. It was a lovely crisp morning, everything looking perfect but still no sightings. Then, a subtle roll and a few general bubbles. Then another subtle roll and the odd liner. Then, 9:30am and my left-hand Gardner ATT bite alarm signalled a one toner. After a fairly brutal fight, I safely

landed a beautiful scale perfect scattered linear at 30lb 10oz. Absolutely buzzing!

After a few self takes on the DSLR, I opted not to recast that rod as I still had two set in the same zone. With a relatively low stock of carp in Pingewood I didn't want to risk my chances of a second bite as signs of feeding activity continued even though the sun was now starting to penetrate the crisp air. Literally sitting contemplating my first bite, my middle ATT was screaming, and a much heavier dogged battle commenced.

This time I opted for waders on, to ensure I had maximum netting options from water level. This fight was significantly more dogged than the first, that said it went across the

net cord quicker (thank God).

Just prior to netting it, I knew exactly what carp it was after its brief attempt to surface roll it's way to freedom.

Two carp in an hour! 36-hour session and managing three bites including 'Floppy Tail' at a new record weight 48lb 10oz was a right touch. When you see pictures of some carp, you just know you need to catch it. To then be looking down on it resting up safely in your landing net is a pretty surreal feeling.

Gardner end tackle: GT-HD 15lb main line, Camflex leader, Stiff-Link booms to size 4 Talon Tip Wide Gape hooks for the multi rig and a Beaked Chod Rigga BCR) hooks for the hinged stiff. ■



Winter Essentials

Featuring Tom Stokes

Warm Clothing and Plenty of Spares

– This can't be overlooked in the winter, thermal base layers, polar kombats and thermal jackets are a must, as well as keeping plenty of spares in the van. Waterproof socks, hoodies, jumpers and even a towel are always in the back of the van as spares through the winter.

Comfort – Don't punish yourself just to be carpy. Groundsheet, bivvy,

Coleman and even a hot water bottle. In the winter I generally pack the brolly away and get the bivvy out, offering vital cover on those wet cold nights. Groundsheets are something I never considered, but they really do help keep kit dry and mud free. And I know winters coming when I get the Coleman burner out, not an essential but it often provides much needed heat in the coldest of times. Just

remember to keep the bivvy door open and never go to sleep with the stove on! I definitely take more kit in the winter, but being comfortable is worth the extra few kilos on the barrow.

Bait Options – High attract fluoro hookbaits as well as naturals always play a part in my winter approach. Things that will help nick a bite on a tough day, such as Goo boosted baits





or a bag of maggot. Isotonic and Pineapple have served

Food and Drink – Keeping yourself fuelled with warm food and drink helps keep the moral up. Warm breakfasts and good hearty dinners such as pie and mash, curry or a stew not only keep you busy on those longer nights

but keep the bivvy and your belly warm!

Zig Kit – This plays a key part in my winter angling. I spent many nights blanking behind rods on the deck last winter, when on a cold day in January a switch to zigs resulted in four quick bites after countless nights of zero

activity. Black, red and yellow Squid soaked foam, size 8 Kamakura Chod-dys and Guru N Gauge hooklinks would be my go-to zig components, and from now until spring, I'll always have my Compac pouch of zig bits with me. ■

Exclusive

Quiet Banks

Featuring Tom Maker

Angling in the winter takes some motivation, the shortened days and prolonged nights make it a very uninspiring time to be out on the banks but there are positives, which many overlook, such as the quieter banks and the carp being at bigger weight, plus there's always a bite to be had!

I love my winter fishing, and there's very few things that'll change come rain or shine. Location is certainly the first stumbling block to overcome, followed closely by choosing a tactic to angle for them once you're satisfied. Over the years, I've dabbled with Zigs and fishing over bait; whether that's with my usual Manilla mix or a solid bag approach. Sometimes it's not that easy to get that first bite, so experimenting between a few proven methods helps massively.



Effort levels have to be ramped up, whether that's finding the carp, spodding in the rain or making sure that rig goes back out after a bite which can then lead onto a few more precious takes. One thing that is worth noting though is make sure you're comfortable and able to enjoy it... don't go without an adequate bivvy that'll keep you warm and sheltered or some good comfort foods to keep your belly full. Winter fishing is a great time to organise a social with friends and catch up after the New Year with the hope of some bites thrown in. Make it happen, stick to tried and tested methods and go enjoy it!

It'll be spring before you know it. ■



SECRETS OF THE THAMES

Price
£29.95

Secrets of The Thames



By Rob Maylin and friends



The River Thames flows through southern England. It is the longest river entirely in England, with a total length of 215 miles (346km) and the second longest in the United Kingdom, after the River Severn. While it is best known for flowing through London, the river also flows alongside other towns and cities, including Oxford, Reading, Henley-on-Thames, and Windsor.

The river gives its name to three informal areas: the Thames Valley, a region of England around the river between Oxford and west London; the Thames Gateway; and the greatly overlapping Thames Estuary around the tidal Thames to the east of London and including the waterway itself. Thames Valley Police is a formal body that takes its name from the river, covering three counties.

In an alternative name, derived from its long tidal reach up to Teddington Lock in south west London, the lower reaches of the river are called the Tideway.

It rises at Thames Head in Gloucestershire, and flows into the North Sea

via the Thames Estuary. On its way, it passes through London, the country's capital, where the river is deep and navigable to ships; the Thames drains the whole of Greater London. Its tidal section, reaching up to Teddington Lock, includes most of its London stretch and has a rise and fall of 7 metres (23ft).

Along its course are 45 navigation locks with accompanying weirs. Its catchment area covers a large part of South Eastern and a small part of Western England and the river is fed by 38 named tributaries. The river contains over 80 islands. With its waters varying from freshwater to almost seawater, the Thames supports a variety of wildlife and has a number of adjoining Sites of Special Scientific Interest, with the largest being in the remaining parts of the North Kent Marshes and covering 5,449 hectares (13,460 acres).

By far and away the largest carp water in UK. Now sit back and enjoy just a few of its many secrets.

Order your copy now, only 500 copies produced, so be quick!

Available Here - <http://www.bigcarpmagazine.co.uk/buy-books.html>

Exclusive

The Shire 2023

By Jason Sapsford



Winter campaign

At the end of December 2022 I lost my job which left me in a dark place worrying about bills etc on top of being unwell with prostrate problems I could feel my mental health starting to take a tumble, I knew the only place that would take my mind off it was the special place, so after speaking to the wife we agreed health is more important than work or money so I prepared the gear and headed off, I fished many a winter in my younger days but was apprehensive to say the least as my old bones suffer these days, but that said the kit has developed and I felt I was prepared to deal with the weather.

The special place is made up of two lakes with a joining slice gate probably 30+ acres in total, I knew the west lake had winter form from information

I had already gained from some local friends and this partly was due to there being a much heavier stock so I started the session on the west, after walking round for a couple of days and just dipping the rods out in the evening I hadn't seen anything, knowing location is key especially during the winter months I was starting to lose faith, but on the third day I see a group of about 6 fish holding about mid water, I ran back to the camp and quickly grabbed one of my rods with a zig set, rushed back and they were still there so cast past them and then gentle wound back and dropped it amongst them, put the rod down and phoned my mate Stu to let him know I'd found some, he was also doing some winter sessions so sharing knowledge was key, no sooner had he answered the phone and my rod was away - boom a lovely 20 common

I was off first blood and a lovely

common with its winter jacket, shortly after the capture on my daily walks I suddenly found the mother lode in a Chanel on going past the two main islands, I couldn't believe it but remember thinking strange why they were here, it was some days later I discovered why after finding a dead 20 + carp that had been predated by something, not sure what had got it but it made sense why the carp were round the front of the island, I knew then that I couldn't fish for them encase I spooked them into a danger area, this left me with no choice but to either go and forget the winter campaign or try my luck on the east lake, less stock and no winter known form, over to the east it was.

The usually process of searching as the days went by again but nothing not a single sign anywhere, but I did manage a 20 out of the blue on a Zig in the early hours of the morning

I continued my searching and on









BIG CARP TOP TEN Carp Fisheries



Web: cottingtonlakes.co.uk
Email: cottingtonlakes@outlook.com
Tel: 01304 380691



the fourth day the sun came out and I was doing my regular tree climbing around the lake and I just see what looked like a shape move, at first it looked like weed in the depths but after further observation I made out a carp and then another and another, finally I had found them.

Now I'd found them step.1 then next mission was to get them on the munch, tried various baits, maggots, nuts, zigs etc over the next couple of days but nothing, I had 5kg of SPA baits maple digest in the van so after nothing else doing the business went to the van and grabbed the boilee,

catapulted a hand full out then back up the tree and watched, within an hour the dark shaped slowly hovered over the baits and started to feed, back down another hand full out and they hadn't spooked and we're still munching, changed all the rigs to bottom bait set ups on a blowback bog standard set up, low and behold at midnight the rod tore off and I landed my second east lake winter carp

I was now where I needed to be and was happy that I was taking the right tactical approach, I would do a session, bait up with a few kg of the maple digest before I left, then return

and just fish a couple of catapults at a time, I managed to catch 9 fish during Jan and Feb despite some really brutal but beautiful conditions.

After the winter I was allowed to start looking for work and found a new job so was back to weekend and annual leave for spring and summer but still managed to capture some stunners, all caught with bottom baits similar to the same method applied during winter.

September haul

As we approached September i decided to take some annual leave as



September has been a good month for me in the past as the last of the natural harvest comes into play, and in the past I've managed to have got hits on blood worm beds, unfortunately as with all things you're in the hands of the gods when it comes to weather, I had the annual leave and that was that, if the conditions weren't right then tuff, anyway the second week of September came and I was anxiously checking the weather a few days before and it looked prime, I was set gear in the van and off, first day I headed for the shallows at the far end as it was hot and there was a lot of carp down there, in fact it was black with them, but I know from experience it's a one hit wonder as they spoke and move away after the first bit of disturbance, low and behold I get a take and it's a Tench, that was it they were gone, I decided the next day to have a walk and during the walk I see swans hugging the reed line in various spots along the main body of the lake on the far margin and they were feeding on natural, I rushed back packed up and moved, I managed to get a bite and land one but was just one swim away from where I felt I needed to be so moved again



just up one swim, just as I was settled the planets aligned and a storm front moved in

The next day I managed two, it went quiet the next day and after another walk decided to move to the main islands as there generally fish hanging round that zone due to the back of them being out of bounds, within 30minutes of having a rod out I was in but unfortunately the hook pulled, I got the trap set again and

was in again this time I netted it, I now started to see a few along the face of the island but wasn't well positioned so decided to move up a peg so it was bang in front of me, over the next few days I landed another 10 carp and lost 3, so all in all what started off as a bad year turned into a great one with nearly 30 carp landed since Jan on a difficult water that really is a 5-10 fish a year water. ■



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.

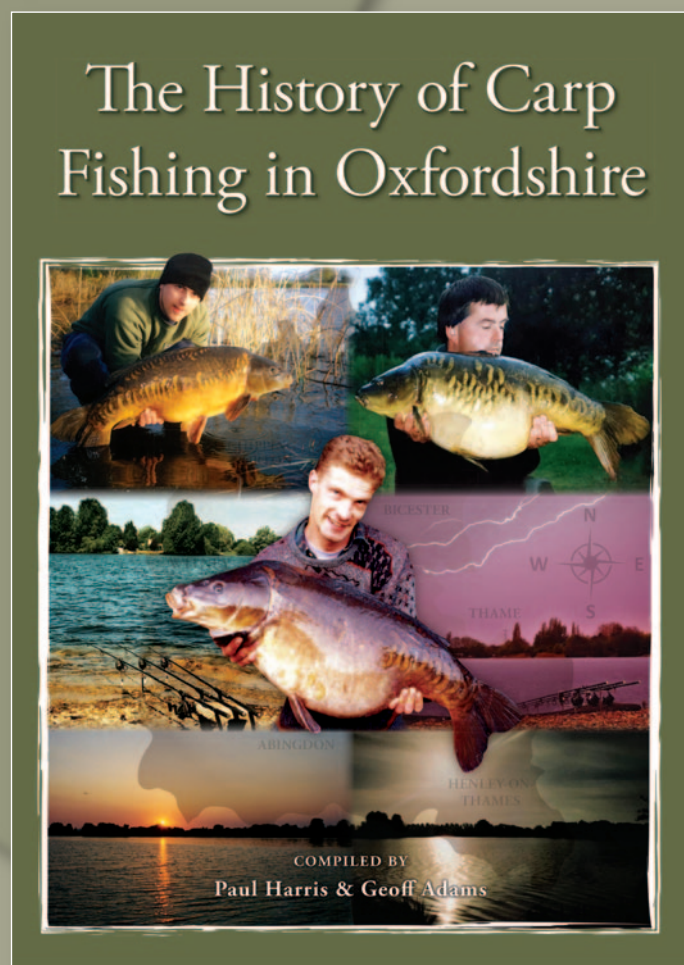
Nick Stansfield is a brilliant young Oxford carper who doesn't shout about his catches. We have two incredible chapters from him from two of the county's most iconic lakes, The Leisure Park and The Big S! Josh Chatfield has written a fantastic chapter which really gives you an insight into how fishing 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: 07768 731425

PAYPAL: www.bigcarpmagazine.co.uk

AVAILABLE THIS AUTUMN

Other images of September fish

A few of the sept hit fish which although I don't care about weights these days went up to 30lb.



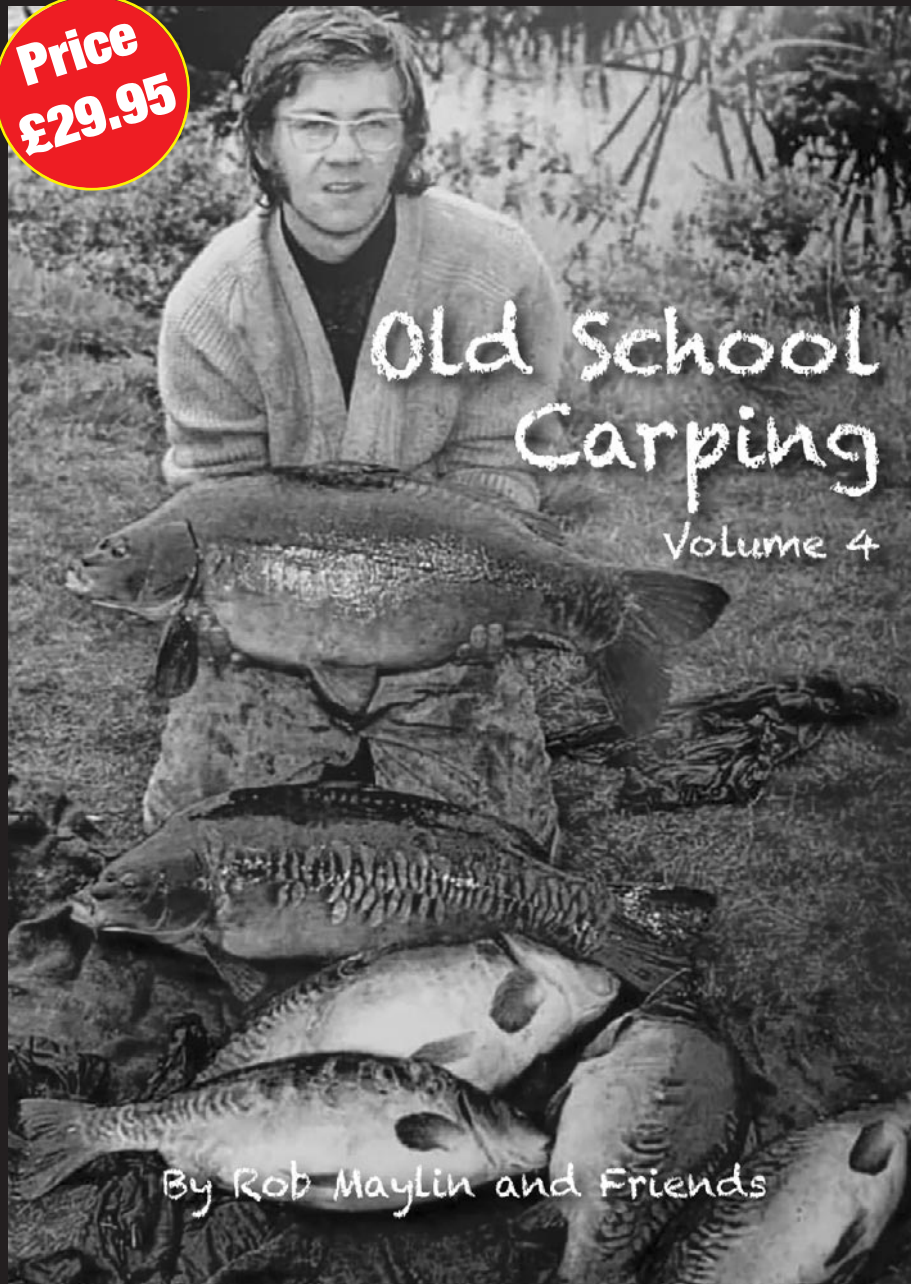






OLD SCHOOL CARPING VOLUME 4

Price
£29.95



The 'Old School' series has become one of our most popular sets of books we have ever published. It appears that, in this fast-moving society we find ourselves, more and more anglers are keen to look back at how things used to be, where it all started, before the commercialism that now controls our angling, before the 'sponsored angler', before Facebook, the Internet, or even mobile phones! However, did we survive? It certainly was a very different sort of carp angling to today's high pace, remote control, Snapchattling, wannabe blogger's world we find ourselves in.

Our contributors to volume 4 are the unsung heroes of that bygone age who were catching carp years ago before the hair rig when not everyone could catch them quite so easily.

But the big difference between the line-up for this volume is that these anglers' names may not be known to you. Unlike our previous volumes this one is not all about the famous anglers of this time. Volume 4 is about many of the very successful anglers who did not seek fame by publicising their catches at the time.

Anglers who smashed their venues and the record books but kept quiet until

now. So, let's take a look at what Volume 4 has to offer, and why I consider it the best yet. Here is a brief synopsis of volume 4's line up and what their chapters are about. A Brief Moment in Time by Kevin Grozier, My Early Carp Life by Anthony Rogers, A Tale of Two Twenties by Dave Miller, Back to the Old Days by William Lovett, Blackroot Pool by Brian Ingram, The Old School Scrapbook, The Seventies by Christopher Davis, Yateley North Lake June 1985 by Nick Peat, Early Carping Memories of Broadwater by Phil Martyn, The Tale of a Twenty Pounder (My first) by Steven Hall, Looking Back – Old School by Steve Fisher, Early Seventies Carping by Gerry Giles, My Introduction to Carp Fishing by Lee Fisher, Billingsgate in Focus by Kris Ford, Old Skool Carping by Paul Tidiman, 'Billy' the Mirror, Church Pool, Patshull by Tim Thornton and My First Doubles by Stewart Crowther.

A fantastic, 'one off' collection of tales from a bygone age from many of the most successful but most secretive anglers of the good old days.

Order your copy now, only 500 copies produced, so be quick!

Available Here - <http://www.bigcarpmagazine.co.uk/buy-books.html>

TARGET CARPING

WARREN JAMES FENN
ROB BRASSINGTON
GEORGE LOUGHLIN
PAUL BENNETT
NICK DODDS

BRADLEY PURSSEY
MITCH GODFREY
PAUL HESELTINE
SCOTT PHILLIPS
STEVE FALCO



Free Line

VIEWS FROM THE BIVVY

FREE LINE MAGAZINE

Free Line Rob's Ramblings



Editor/Publisher

Rob Maylin

Bountyhunter Publications
 44 Herbs End, Cove, Hampshire
 GU14 9YD
 Telephone 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 328
 Miss it and miss out!

Views by Rob Kitcher

Today is officially Autumn and the colder months will now start to roll in slowly, to which so many of us like to fish. This means so many anglers will cook and heat up the inside of their bivvy. With doing either of these inside of the bivvy without leaving your door open, this can lead to carbon monoxide poisoning. Better known as the SILENT KILLER because you can't smell it or see it and it can happen very quickly.

It normally puts you to sleep, unconscious and then you pass away from there if you're not found in time. As a lot of you will know and for the ones that don't, I lost my brother Steve last December to carbon monoxide poisoning. It was the first really cold spell of the year and from what we know, is that when Steve was found the following morning, his bivvy door was fully shut. We know there was half a cup of tea on his bivvy table, TV was still playing and his cobb cooker had burnt out.

This means so many anglers will cook and heat up the inside of their bivvy. With doing either of these inside of the bivvy without leaving your door open, this can lead to carbon monoxide poisoning.

Better known as the SILENT KILLER because you can't smell it or see it and it can happen very quickly. It normally puts you to sleep, unconscious and then you pass away from there if you're not found in time. As a lot of you will know and for the ones that don't, I lost my brother Steve last December to carbon monoxide poisoning.

It was the first really cold spell of the year and from what we know, is that when Steve was found the following morning, his bivvy door was fully shut. We know there was half a cup of tea on his bivvy table, TV was still playing and his cobb cooker had burnt out.

Now I have to assume this part but it looks like he made a cup of tea and decided to warm his bivvy briefly, just like we have all done a thousand times over the years.

We all know the risk but think, I will just warm the bivvy for 5-10 minutes and it will be fine. Well for Steve it wasn't fine, he lost his life and changed all of our lives forever.

The reason for this post is that I don't want anyone to go through what we have all had to endure this past year. Trust me, it's horrendous.

If you are going to cook or heat your bivvy, please keep your door open and even better, go buy a carbon monoxide alarm. They can be as little as £20 but it could be the best item you buy and might just save your life.

If this post makes one person think about it, then that might be one person's life saved.

I never thought about the consequences or even having a carbon monoxide alarm until I lost my brother but it did afterwards as now my door stays open and I own a carbon monoxide alarm. I love and miss you little brother. Stay safe on the bank this winter and tight lines xxx cup of tea on his bivvy table, TV was still playing and his cobb cooker had burnt out.

Now I have to assume this part but it looks like he made a cup of tea and decided to warm his bivvy briefly, just like we have all done a thousand times over the years.

We all know the risk but think, I will just warm the bivvy for 5-10 minutes and it will be fine. Well for Steve it wasn't fine, he lost his life and changed all of our lives forever.

The reason for this post is that I don't want anyone to go through what we have all had to endure this past year. Trust me, it's horrendous.

If you are going to cook or heat your bivvy, please keep your door open and even better, go buy a carbon monoxide alarm. They can be as little as £20 but it could be the best item you buy and might just save your life.

If this post makes one person think about it, then that might be one person's life saved.

I never thought about the consequences or even having a carbon monoxide alarm until I lost my brother but it did afterwards as now my door stays open and I own a carbon monoxide alarm. I love and miss you little brother.

I love and miss you little brother.

Stay safe on the bank this winter and tight lines xxx



Carp Chat Carpy News4

Carp Scene Reviews14

ARTICLES

Target Achieved *by Bradley Purssey*20

A Previously Trodden Blackwater Path (Part 3) *by George Loughlin*24

Trent – Triumph to Dejection (Part 3) *by Mitch Godfrey*44

Gabrielle 42lb 3oz *by Paul Heseltine*46

An Autumn Session on Christchurch *by Scott Phillips*50

30 Years a Carp Angler *by Steve Falco*56

Undercover Carping *by Mitch Godfrey*70

Chasing Dreams – Twynersh Pit 3 (Part 2) *by Warren James Fenn*72

Bayeswater Beauties *by Nick Dodds*84

My Shropshire Club Water *by Rob Brassington*88

A Christmas Cracker *by Paul Bennett*96

Government grants house builders a charter to pollute

The government's plan to rip up the regulations to protect our rivers by weakening the requirements around nutrient neutrality is a victory for housebuilders but a disaster for the environment. The nutrient neutrality rules were put in place in 2017 and designed to reduce the impact of nutrients like phosphates and nitrates from damaging protected sites and polluting our rivers.

They meant local councils should not give the go-ahead to any new development that is projected to add to river nutrients, either through wastewater from new homes or runoff from building sites. Martin Salter, policy lead at the Angling Trust, said: "Politics is about choices and the government have chosen to side with the polluters rather than maintain vital protections for our beleaguered rivers and watercourses.

Of course, if they were actually serious about their pledge to be 'the greenest government ever' our woefully inadequate sewage treatment



works would have already been upgraded and would be more than capable of processing the additional flows from new housing schemes to a standard acceptable in a modern country." In making their announcement to weaken the protection of our rivers, the government has tried to mitigate the impact by offering millions in funding to farmers and housebuilders to invest in schemes to prevent pollution and improve the environment.

But, whereas strong regulations place requirements on developers to comply with the law and are enforceable, this offer of funding is not guaranteed and, as the cost-of-living crisis continues, could easily be taken away in future.

This funding will come from the taxpayer and will allow housebuilders to avoid their responsibility and continue to make huge profits.

The polluter won't pay, we will. This change in government policy has come after intense lobbying from housebuilders who have used figures on the number of houses that they have not been able to build to seek to overturn the regulations.

But as the ENDS Report have reported, these numbers are rough estimates. Even the House Builders Federation, who produced the numbers, admitted to the ENDS Report, "its numbers are estimations, and that to ascertain more accurate figures would be very time consuming." Stuart Singleton-White, Head of Campaigns at the Angling Trust, said: "The housebuilders have come up with a figure on the back of a fag packet and the government has accepted it as gospel. This is no way to make policy changes.

This government promised us in May, June, and July that they would not lower environmental protections.

Now they have done exactly that." According to Green Agri Land Ltd, a nutrient mitigation company who works with housebuilders, plans are already in place to mitigate pollution for approximately 70,000 homes. Singleton-White added: "This shows the regulations were not too onerous but were working, and housebuilders were responding by taking measures to tackle the pollution impacts of their developments.

This poorly thought out 'charter to pollute' announcement will sweep away the progress being made." ■





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:



Bid for a chance to win a day's fishing at the world famous Broadlands fishery



How would you fancy a day fishing for grayling on the world renowned Broadlands fishery? Due to a generous donation from Chalkstream Fishing Ltd, we are able to offer tickets for 10 lucky winners to chase 'The Lady of the Stream' on Thursday, 26th October. All money raised will support our vital work to protect fish and fishing.

The 10 highest bidders will be joined at Broadlands by Welsh international angler Hywel Morgan and flyfishing legend Charles Jardine, alongside the Angling Trust's Jamie Cook and Martin Salter. Closing date for bids is Sunday, 17th September, at 8pm.

Bahamas fly fishing prize to benefit Fish Legal

To celebrate the Orvis Saltwater Fly Fishing Festival and to support the vital work Fish Legal do to protect waterways, Orvis UK is delighted to have partnered with Go Fishing Worldwide to offer an unmissable experience, whilst raising money for Fish Legal.

Go Fishing has donated a place on its Flat's Fly Fishing School, which is running on Crooked Island in the Bahamas from the 10th – 18th November 2023. The value of this tremendous prize is £3,400 – with just 50 tickets available at £50 each, don't miss out.

T&C: The winning entrant would need to cover the cost of their flights, and the prize would be non-transferable and valid for this year only, so entrants would need to check they can make the dates. A condition of buying a ticket means you are happy to be signed up to the Go Fishing Worldwide and Orvis UK mailing lists.



Clock is ticking on agricultural pollution promise

In 2015, Fish Legal, WWF UK and the Angling Trust took the government to court for failing to do more to tackle chronic agricultural pollution of protected rivers, lakes, and wetlands.

The government promised in court to produce Diffuse Water Pollution Plans for 37 sites 'as soon as reasonably practicable'. These plans, they said, were a necessary first step before deciding whether a Water Protection Zone was needed to end agricultural diffuse pollution and for those sites to reach favourable conservation status.

Nearly eight years later, only six of the 37 pollution plans have been produced. Fish Legal are keeping watch on how long ago that binding promise was made in court and will continue the fight for cleaner waters.

ANGLERS AGAINST POLLUTION

Awards for Water Quality Monitoring volunteers



The Angling Trust marked the first anniversary of the national roll out of the Water Quality Monitoring Network project by presenting special awards for the exceptional contributions made by anglers, clubs and partners. Congratulations to the Girling Angling Society, Glyn Marshall, Ian Tucker and the North Wales Rivers Trust!

MARINE

Failure to recognise importance of flatfish



The Angling Trust is disappointed at the failure to recognise recreationally important flatfish within the Southern North Sea & Eastern Channel Flatfish Fishery Management Plan. Defra undervalue the importance of recreational species like plaice, flounder, dab and turbot in its draft plan which does not go far enough to reverse the damage caused by commercial over-fishing, particularly the high discards incurred in this fishery.

We will be publishing our response to the consultation in due course and encourage all recreational sea anglers with views to respond.



**Lake Heritage is
17 acres in size with
15 posts**

**It is set in a
beautiful location**

**We only do full,
exclusive lake
bookings, which is
£1600 per week**

**We have a huge stock
of quality carp, high
numbers of 30s, 40s,
and 50s, (currently
nine individual 60lb
plus fish to upper 60)**



Bookings call Mick Heritage 07806685005

For more information

Lake website www.lakeheritage.co.uk

We can be found on Facebook

See you at the Pike Anglers Club Convention



The Angling Trust will have a stand at this year's Pike Anglers Club Convention on Saturday, 23rd September. It's being held at the Lady Eastwood Centre, Newark Showground, Nottinghamshire and includes guest speakers, second-hand stalls, coaching sessions and trade stands. If you're going to the Convention – pop along to our stand and say hello!



Local lads win international grueler on the Gloucester

Team Gloucester have been crowned the 2023 Angling Trust Feeder National champions after a tough test on their local Gloucester Canal. There were 29 teams of five anglers taking part in this international-style feeder-only competition where the winners earned an invite to the FIPS World Club Feeder Championships in Portugal early next year.

Team Gloucester have been crowned the 2023 Angling Trust Feeder National champions after a tough test on their local Gloucester Canal. There were 29 teams of five anglers taking part in this international-style feeder-only competition where the winners earned an invite to the FIPS World Club Feeder Championships in Portugal early next year.

MEMBER OFFER

Lure fishing this autumn?
**Get 10% off at
PredatorTackle**



Our friends at PredatorTackle offer 10% discount on all online sales – just one of the great benefits you receive as an Angling Trust Individual Member, including savings on tackle, bait, fishing books, holidays, travel, household goods – and more!

COMPETITIONS



Brilliant Barnsley land a double and place at World Club Champs

The unstoppable Drennan Barnsley Blacks made it a weekend to remember on the Gloucester Canal by winning the Angling Trust Float National just a day after claiming the Division 1 National title. The victory secures them a guaranteed invite to the FIPS World Club Championships in Slovenia next Summer.

VACANCIES

Non-Executive Directors

The Angling Trust has three vacancies available for Non-Executive Directors, of which two are general roles and one which will become the Welfare and Safety Lead Director when the current incumbent reaches the end of their tenure in early 2024. As these roles are elected by the subscribing membership, you will also need to provide the following: a short (300 words) biography; your Angling Trust membership number; and a nomination from an Angling Trust member. No salaries are attached to these roles but legitimate and reasonable out of pocket expenses will be paid. The deadline for applications is Monday, 11th September.

Environment Communications Officer

We are seeking an enthusiastic and hard-working individual to join the Angling Trust supporting our environment team. The role will help to develop and lead on the production of communications to promote the environmental and campaign work of the Angling Trust and engagement in our 'Love Fishing Love Nature' campaign.

Campione, campione olé olé ole...



Big congratulations to Ashley Izzard and Tony Reynolds on an amazing result winning the BCAC 2024 final at Broadlands Lake with a whopping 566lb 2oz. We reached out to the NEW Champions and this is what Ashley had to say: "What happened this weekend I still cannot believe it!! What Dreams are Made Of we did it!! Friday morning the draw was very kind to us with a out the bag draw in place I went up and picked a mega peg the same peg as we were in last year, we got set up and went to work. Straight from the off we were ahead and that's where we were at the end landing 33 fish for a total of 566lb 2oz ahead of the field by 350lbs. It's crazy but it happened and God does it feels mega so much hard work, dedication, and passion has gone in to trying to achieve what we have done this weekend for a very long time!! Hybrid pop ups and spicy crab pop ups as the hook bait on the surface and the mixers soaked in hemp and salmon oil in the day time and the night time was pop ups over cell Boillies kept the bites coming to win. Wow, we did it!! Well done, Lads, you smashed it. ■

Last-Minute Fishing Stays in the UK for Autumn: From Cottages Where You Can Fish From Your Garden to Lodges That Are Only Accessible by Boat

Searches for 'fishing holiday' have increased by nearly 60% in the UK between September 2022 and August 2023, according to search engine data.

Similarly, there has been an over 100% rise in searches for 'fishing cottages' during the same period, illustrating that many keen anglers and fishers have been on the lookout for a fishing getaway to bring in their next catch.

And given that the approaching autumn season holds many opportunities across the UK to cast your line into peaceful lakes, meandering rivers, and bountiful seafront locations around the country, those on the lookout for their next fishing retreat should consider planning a trip in the near future.

This is why Independent Cottages, a specialist UK holiday provider, has revealed a selection of its fishing-friendly properties around the country with last-minute availability for those looking to treat themselves to a fishing break before winter rolls around.

From homes where you can fish from your own garden to cottages so secluded that they are only accessible by boat, you can treat yourself to a spontaneous getaway to fish to your heart's content.

A Waterside Stay Where You Can Fish From Your Own Back Garden – Norfolk Anchor Cottage is in a prime position overlooking the River Bure in the heart of the Norfolk Broads.

It is only a 2-minute walk from Wroxham Village Centre, which is considered to be part of the 'capital of the Broads' that is particularly popular amongst boating holiday fanatics.

The property can sleep up to eight guests across four bedrooms, with a 20% discount available on groups of four or less, within its cosy confines.

Highlights of the property include its waterside patio gardens where guests can dine alfresco, watch the local boats float by, and even cast their line! Private mooring is also available for boats, which you can bring yourself or hire locally, should you wish to explore the surrounding local waterways during your stay and fish a little further afield.

And with plenty of waterside pubs and restaurants a mere few minutes from the property, this is a perfect



Anchor Cottage, Norfolk.

retreat for those who can't resist a getaway set on the UK's beautiful waterways.

Anchor Cottage has select availability this September and for the majority of October, starting from £101 per night during off-peak season and from £309 per night during peak season, both with a 3-night minimum stay required.

You can find further information here > https://www.independentcottages.co.uk/norfolk_broads/anchor-cottage-ref941 A Cornish Country Retreat With 17 Acres of Private Grounds To Fish In – Cornwall Sleeping up to six guests across three bedrooms, Owl Lodge is nestled in the tranquil countryside of South Cornwall, near the idyllic village of Two Waters Foot, on Rivermead Farm.

From the property, guests can soak in sprawling river and valley views of the English countryside landscape, and escape from the bustle and stress of daily life.

Owl Lodge boasts 17 private acres of grounds which guests can explore at their leisure during their stay.

It includes beautiful meadows, peaceful woodland, its own lake, and a stretch of the River Fowey which has fishing rights for guests to fish with no restraints during their stay. The property's prime location in South Cornwall also means that guests are never far from some of the county's most sought-after sights, including the beaches of Fowey,

Polperro, and the magnificent South West Coastal Path. Along the coast, mackerel fishing is also a popular activity, and visitors can take boat trips locally to savour some sea-based fishing during their stay too.

Owl Lodge has remaining availability in the latter part of September and throughout October, with short breaks starting from just £200 per night in the off-peak season (with a 3-night minimum stay required) and 7-night stays from £750 year-round.

Further details can be found here > <https://www.independentcottages.co.uk/cornwall/owl-lodge-ref5549> A Romantic Getaway for Two By The River – The Lake District Once a working farm, Ellen Hall is the home of seven romantic retreats including Dyke's Cottage, which can host two guests in one bedroom in its quiet spot in the Northern Lakes.

The property is beautifully presented with its own galleried mezzanine area, a four-poster bed in its bedroom, and a cosy log-burning fireplace.

For a getaway where fishing is available on-site, guests can stay in this charming cottage in a quiet spot in the vale close to the River Ellen.

And within easy reach of the Northern Lakes, there are ample areas where visitors can fish for free as they explore the wider region during days out.

The babbling brook through the farm's garden runs beside the cot-

tage, and paired with the sound of birdsong this creates a relaxing atmosphere for couples to spend time in when they're not out fishing. They can also make the most of the on-site hydrotherapy hot tub, which is ideal for soothing any aches and pains after a long day casting your line.

Short breaks are available from £110 per night during off-peak season (with a 2-night minimum stay required) and from £96 per night in peak season (with a 4-night minimum stay required). 7-night stays are also available from £350 and Dyke's Cottage has last-minute availability throughout September and October.

Further information can be found here > https://www.independentcottages.co.uk/lake_district/dykes-cottage-ref2791 A Waterfront Lake House in the UK's Largest Marl Lake System – The Cotswolds The Green Woodpecker Lodge has a New England style has been renovated in recent years and designed in a contemporary fashion situated in the idyllic Cotswold region of England.

Here, up to six guests can be accommodated across three bedrooms, where groups of friends or family can enjoy a long fishing retreat in good company.

This picturesque lake house can be found in the Cotswolds Water Park, the UK's largest marl lake system, where visitors can spend hours of endless fun in the water.

The property faces Isis Lake, offering beautiful lakeside views through-



Owl Lodge, Cornwall.

out the stay. Fishing for carp is a very popular local activity in the water park's 150 lakes set within a huge 40-square-mile nature reserve.

The protected area is also popular amongst nature lovers, with many bird species thriving within its confines, as well as watersports enthusiasts, with kayaking, paddleboarding, and sailing all available nearby.

Green Woodpecker Lodge has remaining availability throughout September and October with short break prices starting from £150 per night during off-peak season and £250 per night during peak season (both of which require a 3-night minimum stay).

7-night stays are also available starting from £1200. Further details

are here > <https://www.independentcottages.co.uk/cotswolds/green-woodpecker-lodge-ref5253> A Get-away in the Scottish Wilderness So Secluded it is Reached by Private Boat – The Scottish Highlands For those seeking a fishing break in total isolation, Laggan, situated in the secluded Scottish Highlands, is surrounded by nothing but wilderness and beautiful wildlife.

In fact, the property is so secluded that it is only readily accessible by boat, which guests have sole use of for the duration of their stay.

With no mobile phone signal, no neighbours, and no electricity, this is the total off-grid holiday experience for those who want nothing more than to connect with nature and enjoy some of the most peaceful fishing spots that the country has to offer.

Expect cooking hand-picked mussels which you've foraged from the nearby beach by hand to have for dinner, building a fire from local driftwood, and of course finding a local catch to cook up alongside for a true taste of the Highlands from the nearby seaford. Despite its popularity, Laggan has last-minute availability this October, with the majority of the month being bookable for guests.

Laggan offers 7-night stays which cost from £1050 year round.

You can find further information about the property here > <https://www.independentcottages.co.uk/highland/laggan-ref3136> Independent Cottages offers a range of last-minute UK getaways on their website with fishing available on-site.

More information can be found here > <https://www.independentcottages.co.uk/cottageSearch.php#top-of-results>. ■



Green Woodpecker Lodge, Cotswolds.

Loei Jungle Fishing Lake Thailand with over 80 different Species of fish! The Lake the professional anglers choose!





เลย จังเคิล ฟิชซิ่ง เลค

Loeijungle Fishing Lake

 Loei Jungle Fishing Lake
 +66965324426
 +66863496267

For more details check out our website -<https://loeijunglefishinglake.com>

Twist+ 300 Lantern

Light up everything
with the Twist+ 300
Lantern

Packed full of features for this winter, the new Twist+ 300 R Lantern from outdoor expert Coleman is incredibly bright and lets you light up your house, garden or the path after dark for up to 300 hours (on low setting) this winter. Even more convenient, it doubles up as a handy phone charger, so even if your power does go down, you'll never be without charge on your smart phone or tablet.

It's incredibly rugged construction also means that the lantern can deal with extreme wear and tear and will even survive an accidental drop from 2 metres. Featuring an integrated USB port the lantern can be easily charged at home or in the car. It includes the brand's innovative BatteryLockT technology, put the power of light in your hands this autumn season with the new Coleman Twist 300 Lantern. ■



NITE



BLACK WATCHES SPOTLIGHT

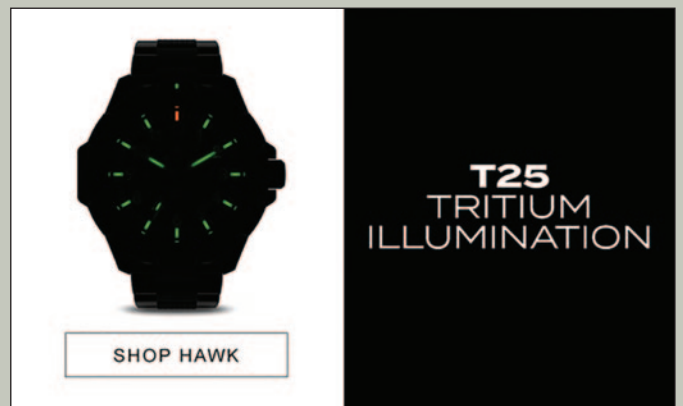
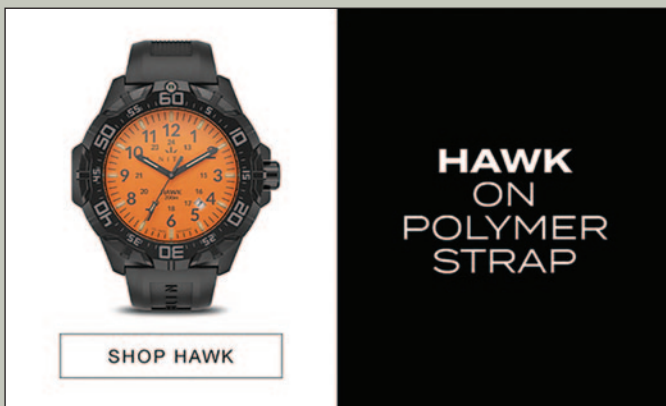
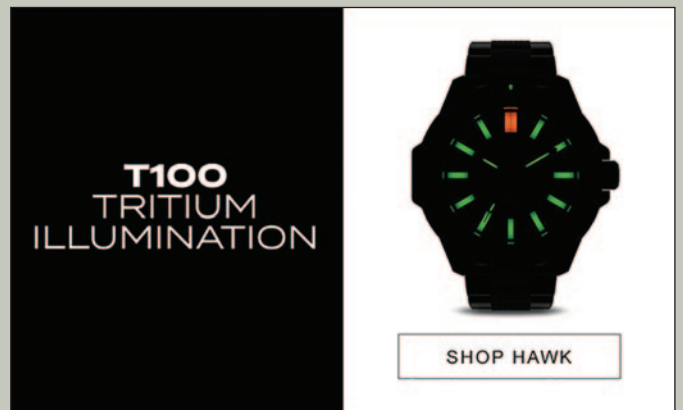
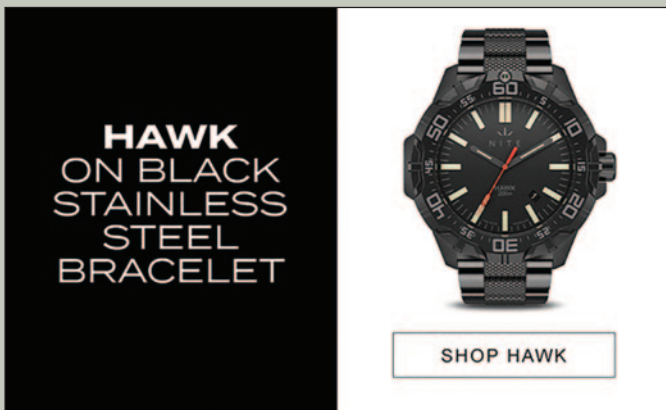
Discover our collection of **all-black watches**, meticulously crafted using the finest materials. These timepieces embody strength and durability, ensuring longevity for years to come. With exceptional attention to detail and impeccable finishes, our all-black watches exude a timeless elegance that effortlessly complements any look.

20% OFF ALL HAWK WATCHES

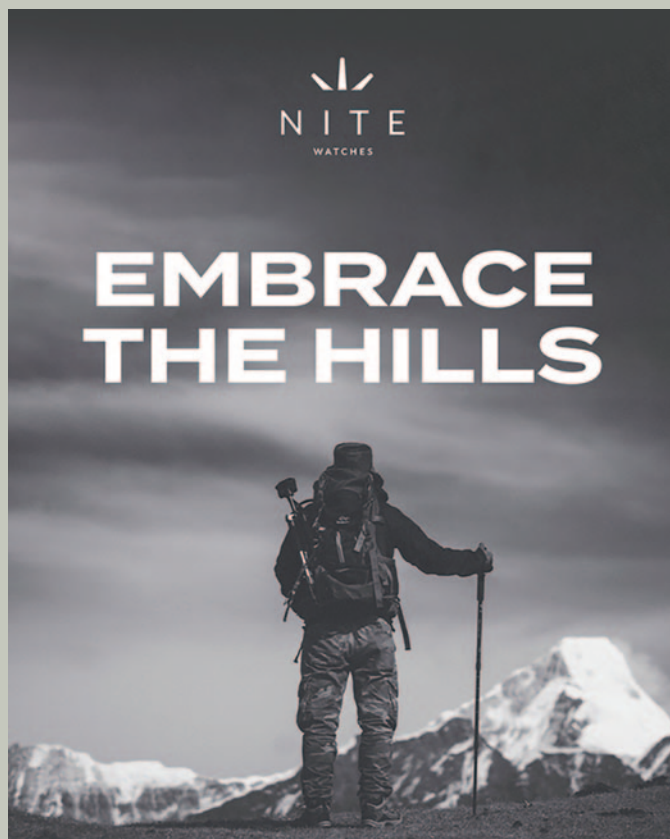


The current Hawk designs are available at this special discounted price for a limited time. There is a finite supply and we anticipate high demand. Secure yours now to avoid missing out.

Use code **'HAWK2023'** at checkout.



Nite Watches – Exploring the Great Outdoors



Exploring the Great Outdoors

Hiking, the pursuit of adventure in the great outdoors, is a passion that resonates with many outdoor enthusiasts. At NITE Watches, we understand the thrill of exploring the world on foot and embracing the elements.

Over 120 million people globally are

regularly choosing to lace up their boots, grab their backpacks, and head for the trails.

This surge in interest can be attributed to several factors, including a growing desire for outdoor experiences, a need for physical and mental wellness, and an increased awareness of the natural world's beauty.

TIPS FOR A SAFE HIKE:

Plan Ahead: Just like crafting a fine timepiece, planning a hike requires meticulous attention to detail. Before embarking on your adventure, research your chosen trail, understand its difficulty level, and check the weather forecast.

Gear Up: A quality hiking experience demands the right equipment. Ensure you have sturdy footwear, appropriate clothing, a well-packed backpack, and essential items like a map, compass, and a reliable timepiece. At NITE Watches, we

appreciate the significance of time in the great outdoors.

Stay Hydrated and Nourished: Hiking can be physically demanding, so remember to carry an adequate supply of water and high-energy snacks. Staying hydrated and well-fed ensures you have the energy to enjoy your journey.

Leave No Trace: As passionate outdoor enthusiasts, we should be stewards of the environment. Respect nature by following the "Leave No Trace" principles, which include packing out all trash and minimizing your impact on the wilderness.

Safety in Numbers: Whenever possible, hike with a companion or in a group. There's safety and camaraderie in shared experiences.

Use Apps To Optimise Your Experience: We love the app AllTrails as it offers over 400,000 hard-curated maps, as well as functionality online and offline.

At NITE Watches, our watches are designed to endure the elements, just like hikers who venture into the wild.

So, lace up your boots, adjust your NITE Watch, and set out on your next hiking adventure with confidence, knowing you're part of a community of independently minded outdoor enthusiasts. ■



MX10
THE HIKERS CHOICE

Nice work if you can get it



While the idea of a life on the road is a dream for many, Adventure Magazine founding editor Alex and fiancé Mascha have made it their existence for the last 11 years.

Alex's latest companion on his adventures is his trusted NITE Atlas. In the latest edition of the Magazine, for the first time, Alex tells his fascinating personal story and how he came to a life on the road.

"I reached out to NITE watches before I decided to publish this story. They would be the perfect brand partner who were in the business of creating stories for life. #ProvenThroughPassion embodies the story Mascha and I are on. Sitting here at 35 I can count the things I've kept with me on one hand. My camera being one of those, and now my Atlas watch from NITE joins the journey".

Adventure Magazine is a coffee-table style journal packed with 100 pages of inspiring van life stories. Park up, slow down, chill out.

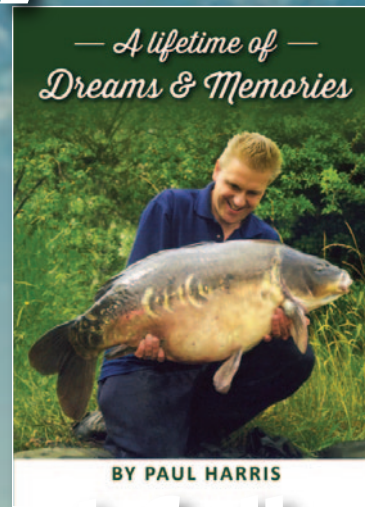
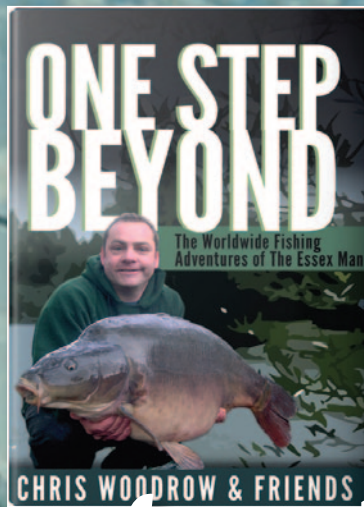
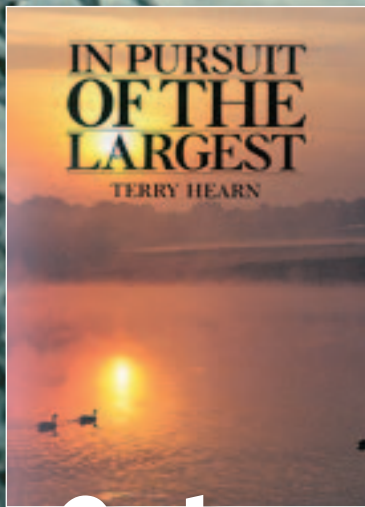
The Adventure team have generously offered a 20% discount on online purchases. Use code 'niteadventure23' at checkout. ■



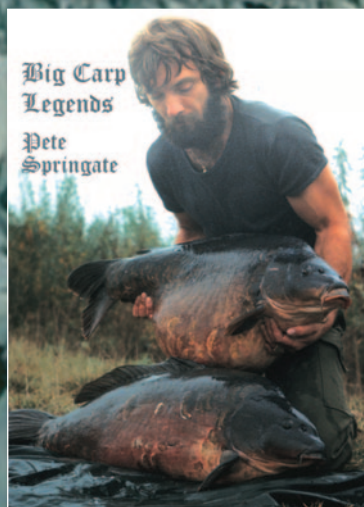
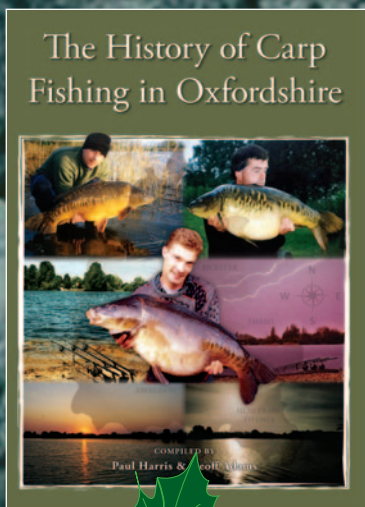
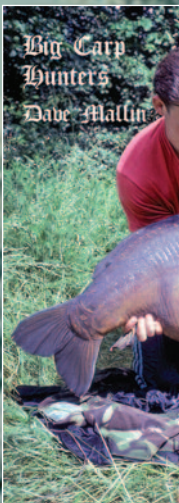
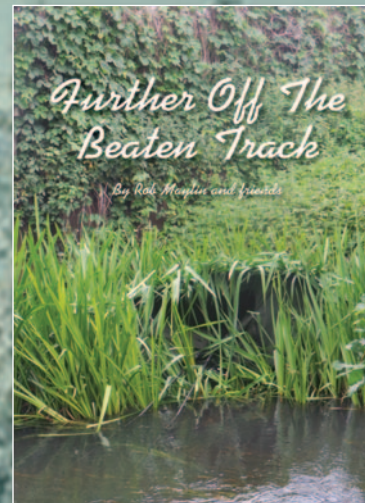
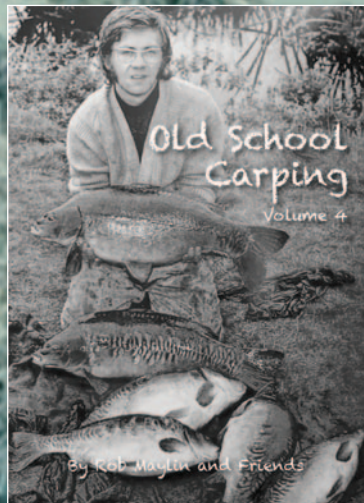
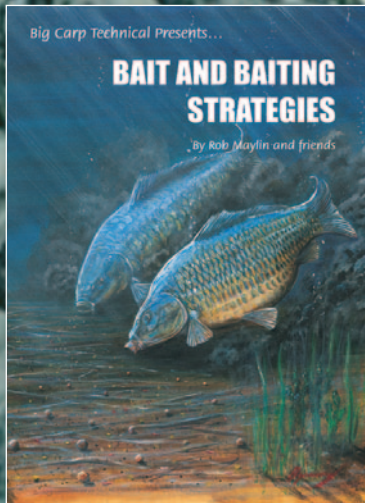
Carpy Humour



Warm Away the Cold

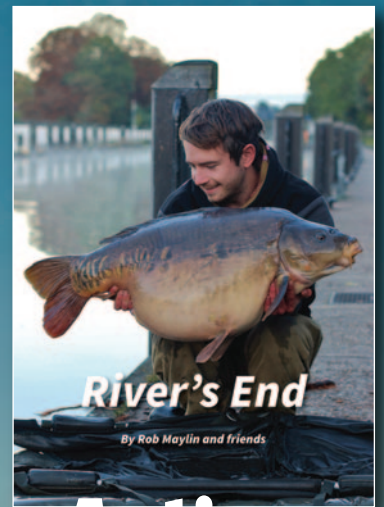
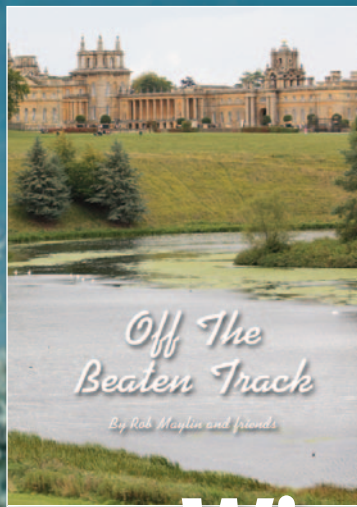


Order one of our Best Sellers and

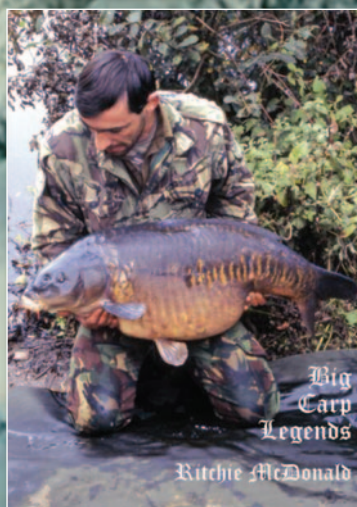
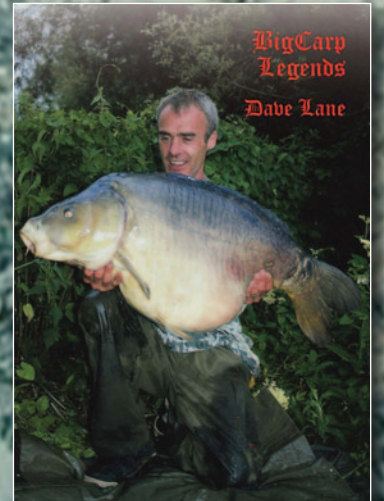
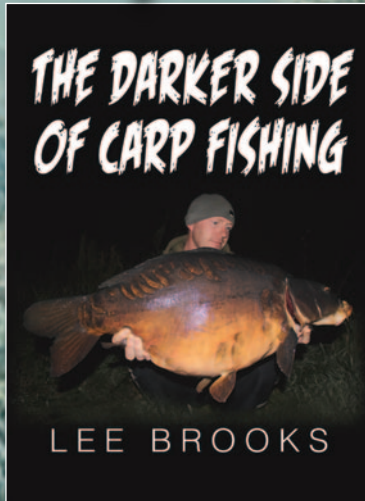


NEW BOOKS www.bigcarpma
NEW AND OLD BOOKS: www.ebay

and Weather This Year



get ready for some Winter Action



gazine.co.uk/online-shop.html

.co.uk/usr/rarecarpbooksunlimited



Target Achieved

By Bradley Purssey

It all started when I was invited to Cottington fishery to fish with friends. I arrived at 7am and took a walk around the big fish lake. After two laps I managed to find some fish in a quiet corner of the lake with the wind chucking it in. I quickly got my gear and quietly set up and got some bottom baits in position. It didn't take long before I received my first take, a 20lb 4oz mirror. It was an awesome looking fish! I reeled in and introduced some more bait and went for a walk round the lake to see if I

could prime some spots. An hour or so later, I returned to find my quiet corner alive with fish, so I quickly got the rods back out. A couple of hours later the left hand rod was away with yet another Cottington stunner of 18lb 2oz.

After an uneventful night, I was on my toes again and found a few carp on the surface in the channel, so I started to introduce mixers, and after a few pouches I had five or six big fish slurping mixers of the top. I made the move to the channel, and after tying up a rig with a 4ft 12lb

Nash zig line with a size 8 hook and a soaked Evolution Carp Tackle brown dumbbell. I got the rod in position, and it wasn't long before I was bent into a big fish of 27lb 10oz. I also had a 27lb common, a 28lb 8oz common, a 42lb 8oz mirror, a 42lb 8oz mirror and a 29lb mirror.

Soon the fish moved off and I was off again, and I managed to find some fish in the old part of the lake called the Bowl. It wasn't long before I had more fish going on the surface, but as it was getting dark, I decided to get some baits on the bottom for the



18lb 2oz mirror.



20lb 4oz mirror.



27lb common.



27lb 10oz common called Half Tail.



42lb 4oz mirror.



42lb 4oz mirror.



28lb 8oz common.



29lb mirror.

night. With an uneventful night and little sleep, I was up at 4am. I started putting mixers out, and by 5am they were sucking up mixers as quickly as

I was putting them out. I cast my hookbait at what looked like a good fish, and in a blink of an eye the bait was gone. I was bent into what felt

like a tank! After an epic battle, I slipped the net under the big girl at 52lb 6oz! I could not believe what I just landed, my second UK fifty. ■



52lb 6oz big girl.

For custom work



Alarms and
indication accessories



3K Carbon Bankware



As unique as you



Find us



Online purchases –
www.kudostackle.com

Custom made
to your preference
in the UK

Email –
info@kudostackle.com

WhatsApp/text/Telgram
0776020260148

Those big carp were
getting snared with
this regularly.

A Previously Trodden Blackwater Path

Part 3 by George Loughlin

We rejoin George from last month's issue as he continues his campaign in the Blackwater Valley... My next session back in the valley was the end of May bank holiday weekend, and as soon as I walked from the car park, a dark mirror came clean out of the water by the bridge in the Back Bay. A common then cleared the water 30 yards along the far margin, so that was good enough for me – the Back Bay Cut swim it was then, and the added bonus was that it was only a 40-yard walk from the car. I knew that far margin was a carp highway as they transited between the two areas of the lake, so it was a case of intercepting them and trying to keep them in the area rather than let them carry on their travels.

Everyone was still mainly using chod rigs or stiff hinged rigs, and I had already started to introduce some particles into the mix in the form of

**(Top) The Willow swim.
(Below) 30lb The Pig.**



Deep Blue Particles Chilli Hemp (which has a fiery bite due to the number of flakes of chilli in it), sweet-corn, 4mm halibut pellets, crushed Himalayan rock salt and a generous amount of KO Baits Haulin' Oil to alter the profile. Now I am not that clued up about bait science, so I leave that to the professionals, but I hoped this would not only give them something they desire as an essential in the form of the oil and mineral salt, but also

actually crave alongside another new bait from Kodapops, the Kode 1 fish-meal. This mix was enough to pull them in, keep them there and give them a mineral boost, which they needed before spawning with the benefit of a highly digestible food source.

The first night was a disappointing blank, but the far margin was still showing signs of carp as the branches were twitching where I had





seen the common, but I felt things were just not right. I decided to reel in and go around to that margin spot. Upon investigation in my chesties, a low 20lb common was actually tethered by the lead core and rig in the branches that were in the water, and that was the reason its siblings were staying clear. It was a tethered warning to others, and I felt sure that was why I never got a take. I set about

freeing the fish, and it swam away strongly. I felt a sense of good inner karma at having let one of our beloved quarry go safely back to fight another day.

The rest of the day passed quickly, and the late afternoon was spent scattering the particle mix along 40 yards of margins in little patches. The amount of carp that were seen in that area was frustrating, but I knew I had

to get the baits in as soon as possible because they weren't going to get caught otherwise. The far margin was clear of debris in 3-4ft of water, and I opted to utilise my newly acquired bait boat to place the rigs over on the spots to avoid potential multiple casts whilst trying to avoid the overhanging branches. I have never owned a boat before in my angling journey, and I know people knock them for varying reasons, but in this situation where they were a monumental advantage, I have to say I was converted and would definitely say that the boat assisted in banking several extra big fish in my time on the lake.

The boilies and particle mixture was topped up in the boat with the oiled-up pellets, and the size 6 long-shank blowback rig (fished helicopter style) was baited with a 15mm boilie tipped with plastic corn. This was then attached to either a small PVA mesh bag of oily pellets or boilie



(Top) 34lb 4oz mirror – Josh's Pet spawned out.

(Left) Bacon and mushroom roll – carpy breakfast.

The Digital Tackle Hut



An Introduction to Fly Fishing



Digital Video E-Books



[Fly fishing \(7 book series\) Kindle edition \(amazon.co.uk\)](https://www.amazon.co.uk)



35lb 8oz common.



36lb 7oz Slate Grey.



crumb, and the long baited hair was taped round the bag to avoid tangles as it was released from the boat, even though it was very shallow. I hoped that this presentation would be the cunning disguise needed to outwit my prey, and only time would tell now.

After that, three of the rods were boated over to their spots along the margin. The lines were slack across the weed that was in front of me, and the clutches were tightened down to keep them all on a tight lead should they decide to wreak havoc upon hooking. I was very happy and very confident. Dinner that evening was double Aberdeen Angus aged sirloin steaks with new potatoes, mange tout, baby sweetcorn and peppercorn sauce and whilst sitting there enjoying the fruits of my labours and savouring every restaurant quality mouthful, without warning the left hand Delkim went in to battle cry, and a huge carp hit the surface as the 4oz lead ejected from the Helisafe clip.

I was on the rod in an instant as the

fish made a break for freedom under the bridge to my left, but I held fast knowing the rig was rock solid and everything else was meticulously attached to complete the business end. The fish went into the weed that was rapidly reaching for the surface, and after a short but spirited fight, I slipped the common over the net. I knew she was a big girl, and when I

stared into the mesh in the crystal clear water my breath was taken away.

I knew the bailiff could see what was going on in my swim, and I didn't fancy doing self-takes of this behemoth, but was loath to reel in my other rods to get my nearest neighbour three swims to my left. The light was fading fast, and I secured the net



**(Top) 37lb 8oz Long Fish, well spawned out but a great blank saver!
(Right) 26lb Mug Linear, a real hard scrapper and well known to the regulars.**



**(Above) 38lb 8oz Korda Fish.
(Left) 38lb 8oz Korda Fish waiting in the net for the sun to come up.**

and took a punt on feeling the wrath of the bailiff as I dashed (as much as someone with my robust physique can) to my neighbour. I told him of my capture, and he was right behind me.



After peering into the net for a second time with him, we were both of the opinion that it was an upper thirty. I bit the line to save all the faffing about, went to lift her out, and at that point I exclaimed, "That's forty."

I was blown away when the scales were read out at 42lb 12oz. The Penny Common was at her biggest weight, and it was the end of my 28-year personal quest to bag a UK forty-pound common. The carp gods smiled on me that evening, and perhaps it was good karma for helping the little one get free from its tethering...

The following morning at 11:45, the same rod tore off again, and a 35lb 8oz common again fell to the ever-reliable longshank blowback rig with the boilies and corn combo. A further three fish came that session, the weather was beginning to warm up, and with every passing week it brought us closer to the annual spawning on this lake. Due to the carp's preference to use the Back Bay and Match Lake, these are deemed off limits, so all the anglers that are still desperate to bank a carp at this time head off to the main part of the lake. Personally my view is that if they are spawning, leave them to it and close the venue totally for two or three weeks completely and let them go

about their business without getting yanked out of the water for photos, but each to their own. I decided to leave them alone, and for the few weeks that it was closed, but I was itching to get back.

When we were given the green light to fish again, it was clear to see that certain spots had been getting bait, as they had been polished to a blatant glow. There are quite a few anglers on the venue that spend every waking hour walking round it, fishing it and baiting it because of their locality, but I was not afforded such luxury and had to turn up on a Friday afternoon after work, find them, feed them and hopefully catch them. There were very few comments about sightings and happenings, and being an interloper to the area, it was very much a case of solitary angling with only one or two reliable sources of info if they had been around.

When I got back down to the lake after the brief spawning period, I was hoping to get back in the Back Bay swim that produced the Penny Common, but it was taken (unsurprisingly), and the whole area was sewn



LEATHERMAN®

40
YEARS

ARC®

Built with premium materials and features, the Leatherman ARC is the first-ever multi-tool to have a MagnaCut® steel blade with superior edge retention and durability.

With 20 tools, removable pocket clip, four-pocket nylon sheath, and eight double-ended bits, the durable, practical ARC sets the standard for now and the future for premium multi-tools.



Available online from: www.whitbyandco.co.uk





(Above) 38lb 8oz Korda Fish, a target achieved.

(Bottom) Bespoke Kudos Tackle Old Skool bobbins, simply awesome.

up apart from another top swim in the Match Lake, but I didn't fancy it. I went to look in the main lake, and my school of thought was that in order for them to escape the obstacle course of lines in the other areas, they may seek sanctuary in the main lake. I went

back into the swim called Island 3 where I caught the Slate Grey Common previously. I primed the spot up with 4kg hemp, corn, boilies and pellets and put the rigs out by boat because the tight gap that you had to cast through was dependent on getting the breeze right to open up the branches. The area was the edge of a large gravel area at the point where the silt appeared to start, and the water was around 7ft deep. The baits were no more than 4ft apart, and the last rod was a chod single out in the silt over some light detritus in an area where I had had fish before.

The night passed uneventfully, but I heard some huge crashes over the near spot during the hours of darkness, so I knew they must be close. At 07:30 the left hand rod was away, and an epic battle ensued with a very angry carp. After ten minutes, one angry 23lb 6oz mirror graced the net, and another Blackwater valley carp had fallen foul of the new baiting strategy. Feed them and they will come is the new philosophy, and after baiting up again that evening with a total of 8-9kg of bait out on the three spots, the liners I was getting meant that carp were definitely in the area. After the carp were fed it was time so crack on with getting my sizzle on and to relax into the evening with a huge amount of confidence and a full stomach. One or two anglers popped in to see what was going on, and I was once again left to enjoy the peace and tranquility of the venue – part of the reason I go fishing.

Sunday morning at 05:30 and the left hand rod tore off, and in my subconscious I heard an alarm, but it did-

n't register immediately. I peered out from under the bedchair cover, and the rod was being pulled violently left as the fish was kiting into the bank. Ignoring the Crocs, I was on the rod in my socks, and I just tightened the clutch and let my new Hi-'S'ive ER rods do the work, and it absorbed everything the big carp threw at it. I was concerned because of the snags to my left, but luckily it was keeping just far enough away from them to keep my heart at a pre-cardiac arrest stage! Dan came up and was manning the net. He saw her first and said it was a chunky one. I walked back trying to keep a good angle on the fish as he lowered the net, and she was dragged in to kiss the block. We thought it was an upper thirty initially, and when the scales read out 41lb 9oz, another known member of the A-Team called the Long Fish, I was totally blown away. We got some absolutely superb pictures, and this fish was totally exhausted on return and needed a good ten minutes of support before she swam away under a good head of steam.

The last three trips produced nine fish made up of two forties, a 35lb common and six twenties! God, I am loving the season so far back in the Valley!! A few days after I managed my first second forty from the venue, my trusty netting assistant sent me a picture of the spot I was fishing being torn up, and the slick flattened out the surface... ready for some keen-eyed pirate to be all over that, but hey, I work mid-week so that's just how it goes.

After the numerous captures over the spring with high attract flavours or bright coloured baits, they now need good quality food bait with a few treats like the hemp and corn, which they love, but the food baits are the key, and I wanted to wean them on the boilies as the season progressed. I live too far away and have very limited time to get down there to prebait and keep my bait going in without the local swim pirates jumping all over it, so I have to rely on instant attraction and hopefully the guileful quarry recognising my patch as the one to seek out and feed on. I planned to keep this baiting strategy going for another four to six weeks and gradually swap the mix over to approximately 60% boilies and 40% particle because I believe that whilst



the fish like to eat hemp, corn and pellets, they derive the bulk of their nutrition from a good food source bait, and the easily digestible nut mix and fish meals I am using will meet their needs and help them get the weight on post spawning.

Over the coming weeks, I managed to get amongst a few of the really stunning looking scaly mirrors, and whilst not prizes in the numbers stakes, these mid- twenties were real crackers with one in particular at 24lb 12oz looking like it was carved from the sort of highly figured timbers found on high end electric guitars. It was Jurassic looking, but with the most vivid array of colour variations to complement its scale patterns – truly an honour to catch it. I think that the whole carp scene is too much about the weights of the fish, and don't get me wrong, we all love to get one that is bigger than the last (and I am trying hard to beat my PB mirror of 43lb 6oz, which has stood since 2005), but sometimes Mother Nature likes to keep these smaller gems well-hidden. They have more intrinsic value to me than a big scaleless yellow lump, and the old adage of quality over quantity applies.

Midway through June, the weed was now at a level that could be considered savage, and indeed it did put off some of the lesser mortals on the syndicate. The fish had clearly not finished spawning, and once again the lake was closed for two weeks whilst they continued with their spawning activity. It was again posted that the lake was open, and I arrived to be greeted with a line of bivvies in the Back Bay, all eagerly awaiting 01:00 when the leaseholder stated people could fish again. I opted to set up in the weedy corner and immediately went round to the climbing tree to gain some insight into the carpy traffic that was frequenting the area. I immediately saw some tench spawning in the reeds, and the carp still looked like they were on the cusp of yet another bout of spawning, so I was a tad concerned. I decided to wade over to the area where I was planning to put the right hand rod. This would give me more of an idea of what I was faced with in the weed

(Top) Carpy fajitas.
(Right) Fillet steaks in the mud of Ginger Ben's.



stakes, and I was surprised just how clear and deep the area was, something that the tree perspective did not give.

I cleared an awful lot of floating weed away from the path the line would be taking and pushed that into the bank under the tree line. I then left the weighing pole in the ground on my designated spot and simply drove the boat over with a liberal helping of boilie chops, chilli hemp, sweetcorn and 4mm pellets. This payload had a splash of Haulin' Oil over the top, and the rig was the successful longshank blowback rig with a small bag of pellets attached, and the hook point was covered with foam to prevent any tangles during the drop. The other two rods were on the chods due to the weed, and they were placed in relatively fishable areas and topped up with a good helping of boilies as close to the drop zone as possible. The evening came too quickly, and after sharing some food with my neighbours and a couple of cold ciders, the darkness was totally upon us, and it was now simply a waiting game. With some gentle music playing in my ear, it wasn't long before slumber was well and truly underway, and as it was a warm night, the mozzies had a field day with me lying on top of the bed.

The next sound I heard was that of the right hand alarm signalling a take and the green LED flashing so brightly that I was almost blinded (must have put it on intense!). I pulled into the fish and was guided by the rod tip silhouetting against the sky. The fish appeared to be getting caught in every weedbed from me to

the corner spot. Eventually my pal slipped the net under a feisty 22lb common, and there was no way that rod was getting out in the zone in the dark, so it was set aside until the morning.

As the light came very early, it was clear that the warmth had signalled another spawning spell from the carp, and they were vigorously thrashing





**(Above) Kia my carp dog.
(Bottom) The Willow swim.**

and cavorting out in front. I simply reeled I at 06:00 and was on my way up the motorway and home before my household awoke. Others chose to stay and moved to the main lake to try and snare one, but I couldn't be bothered and let the carp have their fun, as inconvenient as it was. I think in total it was shut for around five or six weeks over three periods, and although not ideal, they are not getting any younger, so it's with their best interests at heart. After all, the best syndicates are merely big puddles without fish.

When the venue opened again, I couldn't get down that weekend because the wife had arranged some social function that it was imperative that I attended, so in order to keep her happy (a balance that some don't seem to get right), I was back down in

mid-July for my final session prior to our family holiday to Sorrento. I had a walk round on arrival, but nothing really inspired confidence. I decided to try a night in my favoured Back Bay Cut, but even though the fish were seen passing through, the spots that were once barely visible were now completely polished and looking too blatant to put bait on, as the bait fairies had obviously been busy again during the closed spell. The icing on the cake was around 8.30pm when a fellow "angler" turned up on the other side of the bridge and began raking the swim and baiting up ready for the following night! I was absolutely flabbergasted at these antics, but with a lack of etiquette and experience, these are just some of the many things that happen on venues these days.

Despite enjoying the thrill and anticipation of hopefully getting a fish, alas it was not to be, surprisingly,

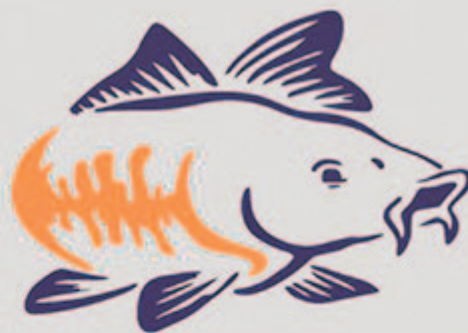
and come the morning, I was actually considering a move. Now I must confess that I am a bit of a lazy angler, and I like to literally bring everything bar the kitchen sink, so moving is never really something I relish anymore. However, knowing this was my last trip before the holiday, and this being an enforced near four-week absence from the lake, I was keen to bank one last fish to satisfy my need.

I popped up to see a chap in a swim called Roger's, and he had a couple that night but had to get to work so said it would be a good bet to jump in here. There were indeed a lot of fish in the Match Lake, and it was a totally different situation to where I was fishing. I never normally like to do this, but I listened attentively to the places where he had his fish and had a lead around. The weed was absolutely savage, but there were indeed clear spots, and the morning was spent in preparation for the late afternoon baiting and rig placement.

The first order of business was to get busy with the weed rake, and after several hours of raking, I barely put a dent in it, but undeterred I soldiered on and made quite a mound behind the swim where another member had previously put my efforts to shame. The weed was relentless, but I had enough out of the spots to make them a tad more appealing for something other than a chod rig. Indeed, the trusty longshank blowback rig was employed on two of them, one baited with a trimmed-down boillie and plastic corn, and the other was a triple-stacked imitation Korda 1B corn weighted down with a number 4 shot to make it very slow sinking. These two were going to be fished helicopter style on one spot at about 40 yards, and they were cast out to feel for the drop. Both went on the money first time and were then unclipped and readied with the bobbins on. I then took the boat out to put two generous helpings of carpy fodder on the spots, and I was happy that I had done all I could to manufacture a bite. The left hand rod was cast along the tree line to a relatively clear area, and the canopy of the tree line just screamed carp. On this rod I fished a Nutmix snowman on a 20lb I.Q. D-rig arrangement with a size 6 Kurv Shank hook and baited up with a mass of crumbed boillies and chops to get plenty of attraction in the water with-



Fishing Show Winter Carp 2023



BIG NEWS FOR ALL CARP ANGLERS!

**THE MOMENT YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR IS FINALLY HERE!
WE ARE THRILLED TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE WINTER CARP
SHOW 2023 WEBSITE AND TICKET SALES ARE NOW LIVE!**

DECEMBER 2ND AND 3RD, 2023, AT SANDOWN PARK, ESHER.

Get your tickets NOW and take advantage of our LIMITED VIP tickets with a special gift....

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT AT THE WINTER CARP SHOW 2023?

INDUSTRY GIANTS:

Rub shoulders with the legends of the fishing world, as they share their wisdom, stories and secret techniques for reeling in the big ones.

MASSIVE LINE-UP OF EXHIBITORS:

Explore an extensive array of fishing gear, equipment and accessories from top-notch brands.

EXPERT TALKS & SHOWS:

Dive deep into the world of fishing with expert talks and captivating shows. Learn from the best in the business including the legend Ali Hamidi Angler himself.



HURRY AND VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO GRAB YOUR TICKETS NOW:
WWW.THEWINTERCARPSHOW.CO.UK/BUY-TICKETS

This show is an experience you won't want to miss, so spread the word, tell your fishing buddies, and let's make The Winter Carp Show 2023 an unforgettable angling adventure!

out a large amount of foodstuff to minimise the chance of my bait being taken.

The lake was relatively quiet, and I was happy sitting in the shade as the heat of the day had reached its peak and was thankfully on its decline. The lethargy of the carp on a hot summer's day was exhibited by me, and I felt drained after the breezeless day in the blazing sun. I was indeed thankful for the arboreal sunblind on the far bank in the late afternoon, and the leafy boughs were enough to dissipate the solar rays to a more pleasant level. We are never really satisfied with the weather in this green and pleasant land, and hot sunny days on the bank where nothing much is happening are as frustrating to we anglers as the days when the inclement weather is making us wrap up like we are embarking on a polar expedition.

The cool onset of the evening finally made my appetite trigger the need to fire up the stoves, and my attentions were once more turned to yet another gastronomic masterpiece. I had all the makings of some epic fajitas, and alas there was no one to share them with, but with my home

**(Top) Ginger Ben's.
(Below) 41lb 9oz Long Fish.**



blend of spices, guacamole, Heinz Firecracker sauce, mixed peppers and red onions, and tomato and chilli wraps, this was a culinary triumph and a fitting last supper at the lake before my holiday. Pot Noodles are never an option!

With the belly full and the washing up done, the after dinner coffees were well underway, and this evening's choice was the Douwe Egberts Hazelnut coffee. This really is a little bit of coffee heaven for the discerning palette. I decided to carry on reading another of John Steinbeck's literary masterpieces (Canary Row) on my

Kindle, and if nothing else, it is useful to tire the brain before bed, so after around two hours of reading, the old eyelids started to feel like they were weighing 20lbs apiece, and I fell asleep. After much liquid, it wasn't long before the bladder was at capacity, and I needed a 01:30 wee. I stumbled around half asleep, and no sooner than I got back under the thermal cover, the middle rod out on the spot was away!

The fish was well and truly weeded up even though I was on it in a flash, so it was now going to be a battle of wills. I was leaning back into the rod





(Above) I tried to convince Korda to do a quarter Kutter but they weren't feeling it. Little edges!
(Bottom) Kodapops Candyfloss corkballs.

just accentuating the battle curve, and the 18lb Synchro XT Loaded was holding fast. I decided to up the line to 18lb due to the extreme weed, as it's better to be over-gunned in this situation rather than potentially lose fish due to the line giving out under the extreme strain. Having dragged in some gargantuan balls of weed with fish, the line takes some serious abuse.

I could feel the grating, as there were miniscule movements from the fish, and then all of a sudden it was on the move properly. It felt very heavy indeed, and I was playing it with the utmost care because this may well be a proper chunk, as it was plodding slowly and with purpose. After the fish had begun to tire, it was boiling on the surface, and the weight was evident as it had a Mini Cooper sized ball of weed hanging on the line, but there was definitely a carp somewhere in the mass. I got it in the edge, but there was so much weed it would not all fit in the net, so some frantic removal was called for and hoping that the hook was well in. Finally, after some juggling, the fish was safely in the net, and I breathed a welcome sigh of relief as I managed a final carp before the session ended.

After biting the line and getting the new carbon safely out of the way, I readied all the camera gear and went to have a proper look at my prize. It was a good chunk, and at least a mid-thirty, which actually went 34lb 4oz, another of the known big'uns but well spawned-out. This fish has been a

39lb-plus before, but a healthy spawn is great for them, and my mate Ben had it six weeks later at over 37lb, so it quickly got back up there. With the self-takes done at around 2am, I left that rod out until the morning and got back in the wrappers for a few more much needed hours' sleep.

That session was my last in the Blackwater Valley before I swapped my morning view for the stunning vista across the Bay of Naples looking at Mount Vesuvius whilst eating breakfast on the terrace. Those two weeks would be filled with fine Barolo, Limoncello, wonderful Italian cuisine, and some truly spectacular locations shared with my lovely wife and daughter. As much as the lure of foreign travel excites me and the

world is a truly wondrous place to explore, I can't help but hanker after the carp lake when I am away for too long, and it is like withdrawal symptoms.

My Sorrento escape had ended, and after the workplace blues for the following week, my thoughts were of the lake and the fact that it was indeed getting to the cusp of the autumn equinox. I got back down to the lake full of anticipation, and it looked prime for a bite everywhere. I was favouring the Back Bay because there were loads of carp breaking their backs on the surface. I fancied a swim called End Island, which had some cracking inlets between the weedbeds, and I was given the heads up about a close-in clear spot in front of a weedbed that was a mere under-arm flick.

The afternoon was sweltering, and I was going through my ice cold drinks like they were unlimited in supply, but they were sweating out of me as fast as they were going in. I was willing the sun to pass over the denser canopies of the trees to give a welcome respite from the heat, and thankfully I was able to get the rods on the spots. The left rod on the close-in spot was baited with a triple Korda IB corn stack on a longshank blow-back rig and this was baited with corn, 4mm halibut pellets and a few kilos of Deep Blue Particles Chilli



Hemp. The middle rod was a single chod rig placed at around 40 yards in an area between some weedbeds where carp seemed to be frequenting, and this had a White Candyfloss Kodapop mounted on a size 6 Krank Choddy hook to a 5ft Kable leadcore leader and Helisafe arrangement with a 2oz lead. The final right hand rod was cast around 45 yards out to a clear gravelly spot in between two large weedbeds, and this was fished with a multi-rig with a size 6 Krank on 20lb N-Trap semi soft. This was baited with a Nutmix pop-up, and then the boat was sent out over the zone to deposit a kilo of crumb, hemp, corn, pellets and chops to complete the feast.

Over the tranquility of the evening, the carp began to give their presence away with some impressive breaches, and this continued throughout the darkness until I eventually drifted off to sleep. The morning came all too soon, and I awoke in the knowledge that the night was a carpless one. The morning was bright very early on, and another scorcher was on the cards. The sky was a totally clear azure blue, and the sun's effect on the water meant that everything was up just lazily basking on top of the weed and my chances of a morning bite had all but disappeared.

I was all packed up, and whilst sitting watching the water counting the last hour or so before it was time to depart, Captain Sparrow came up from next door in the Barks, and I said, "It looks like my first weekend back on the pond will be a blank..." No sooner had I finished the last word than the right hand rod was bucking under a fast take. We looked at each other, and I said, "I think I will hit that!"

The fight was lively initially, and then the 4oz lead fell away from the Helisafe bead and it went into a wall of weed... and it then became a battle of nerves. After much pulling, the carp released its hold, and it grudgingly came forth towards the waiting net along with a sizeable chunk of aquatic green lawn. My pal Captain Sparrow confirmed the fish to be the Long Fish, one I had caught previously pre-spawning at 41lb 9oz, but she went 37lb 8oz this time round, a quality blank saver nonetheless.

The following weekend I was on the bank again after struggling



through the M4, M25 and M3 car parks on the way to the lake, and I had a three-night stint this time, as it was the bank holiday weekend. As I turned into the car park, the place was pretty busy from the off. Any thoughts of getting back into the Back Bay area were quickly forgotten, and after spending 90 minutes pacing the banks, I settled on one of my choice swims, Island 3. Everything looked good, and the rods were back on the money spots, but the night passed uneventfully. After bite time in the morning, I strolled along the path to the Back Bay to see if anything had been out, and it was deserted. I knew the Barks was worth a shout, as it had been producing fairly consistently and the "spot" was not really a spot any more, rather a dining room table with seating for ten people!

I decided that if I were to catch

(Above) On the bank.
(Bottom) Roger's Swim.

Enoch (a 43lb-plus dark black mirror) or the Korda Fish (37lb-plus dark black mirror), I would need to be fishing where they have been caught this year, and that was in the weed of the Match Lake or Back Bay. It was with reluctance that I packed up my pitch and shifted it around to the Barks, but I had a few hours to get the Tempest up and camp sorted for the next two nights.

During the day the spots were baited with a particle mixture consisting of the awesome DBP Chilli Hemp as the base with the addition of sweetcorn, ground Himalayan rock salt, 4mm pellets and a liberal dose of hemp oil. All three rods were fished with helicopter rigs on 5ft Kable lead-



Chiltern Custom Rods

We are based in Buckinghamshire and we specialise in building high quality rods hand built to your requirements using the best quality products from many leading manufacturers.



Our 1k custom compact rods are available in 10ft 3lb or 3.5lb
All rods are built to order so please contact us with your specifications.
We also supply rods using American tackle, Harrison and our own range of blanks.
We also offer our customers a discounted range of luggage from Cult tackle.



CCR 42 inch Custom Compact Landing Net (complete)

All black option:

- 42 inch carbon arms with black aluminium ends.
- Two-piece 1kg carbon handle with shrink grip.
- Black round aluminium spreader block.
- Deep camo mesh.
- Black whippings.
- Net mesh ring and whipped clip.
- Packs into 43 inch sleeve.

All this for £125.00 including postage!

Custom build option is also available for the handle to match existing rods. We can offer the whippings in any colour plus metallic trim bands, if required. Grips are available in cork, burl cork, duplon, or shrink. Several butt cap options available. Custom decals/names available.

All for £150.00 including postage.



A true custom landing net at a realistic price!

Tel: 07903 114842

Web: www.chilterncustomrods.com

Email: chilterncustomrods@yahoo.com

Facebook and Instagram: Chiltern custom rods



core leaders with Helisafe beads, and the rigs themselves were nine-inch 20lb Kamo hook links with a sinker midway and a size 6 Longshank X blowback rig with a triple IB corn

stack weighted with a small shot so it was very slow sinking.

I knew the rigs were going to work over the bottom they were going to be fished over, and by late afternoon they were all on their respective spots, primed and ready for the taking. Three more anglers turned up in the bay, and with 12 lines in the water in this small area, things were getting congested. I just hoped the carp weren't spooked. Confidence was high as the light of day gave way to the dark, and a few fish were heard in the quiet of nightfall, so they were in the zone.

I was lying on the bedchair listening to the radio, and at around 11.15pm whilst in the early stages of dozing off, the middle Delkim was screaming, and I was suffering retinal trauma as the blue LED was flickering rapidly indicating a blistering take. After it registering mentally with me, the rod hooped over under the annoyance of an angry cypry, and after several powerful runs and a load of weed, I netted a carp... I thought! Pulling back the weed slowly revealed a scraper 20 common, and after a few

quick snaps the rod was back on the money and some more bait sent into the zone.

Back under the cover, the inside of my eyelids were being examined before I fell into a deep slumber only to hear the recurring warble of the middle rod once again. Heart was pounding and Crocs were put on as the middle rod was lifted and nearly torn from my grasp. The clutch was finely tuned under the pressure of a weighty adversary, and I was firmly attached to a formidable leviathan. It was pulling furiously, and as weed was its sanctuary, it tried every possible manoeuvre to cause my heart to palpitate with anxiety as the walls of Canadian and milfoil were sought with every twist and turn. Several boils later and the weed could not hold up against the relentless pressure of 18lb line and my Hi-'S'ive ER rods. The left hand rod was shifted off the bars to make room for the approach, and I finally slipped the net under my prize. Under the white LED

(Top) Kia getting comfy on the Cotswold mat.
(Below) 42lb 12oz common.





of the head torch, the dark black shoulders of a big mirror were seen, and I knew I had one of two very special target fish.

I secured the net and took a moment to calm down before checking the time and deciding to go and wake up my neighbour, Dan Hegan (or Captain Sparrow as he is affectionately known): "I have got a special one in the net, and it is big and black!" Having seen the Korda Fish on the bank previously and having been in awe of its majesty, I knew it had a single scale on its right flank, so after a shuffle of the net, the prize was confirmed, and the Korda Fish was my prize.

It was 5.20am, and the light was not right for pictures just yet, so I let her calm down after unhooking her in the net and covered her with the spare net, as retention slings and sacks are banned on here. Many pictures were taken, and I had one of the really special ones ticked off the list as the Swan Valley A-Team were falling one by one. The final day and night passed without event, and packing up in a truly biblical deluge on the Bank Holiday Monday morning was horrendous, but I had that inner glow that you only get when you have had a special one from your venue.

A short week at the day job meant that my Friday session was upon me quickly, and I was lakebound once again. I normally like a walk about on

(Top left) On the bank.

(Top right) 42lb 12oz Penny Common in the net!

(Right) 42lb 12oz Penny Common just released.

arrival, but having observed that the swim of my Korda capture was free, I felt confident enough to drop in there for this weekend. The same spots were baited with the same Longshank X blowback IB corn rigs, and it was time for carp fishing to take a back seat for the culinary delights of the bankside café to get the stoves fired up and create yet another gastronomic delight. With a full stomach, bedtime came early due to being up at 4.30 that day, so by 22.00 I was firmly in the land of slumber and awoke to the sound of coot wars in the bay.



The sun climbed on its path over the tree line, and its dappled rays were just breaking over the surface waters of the bay when the middle rod was off again! I was on it in a flash, and a truly mad battle commenced as this unseen adversary was hell bent on freedom, flat rodding me on several occasions. I was astounded at the fight, and naturally this is what it is all about, but times like this make you want to wish it was more sedate and controlled.





After around 15 minutes, the fish came to the net. It was very wide at the shoulder and initial guesstimate was 33-34lb, but to my surprise when she was hoisted on the scales, it went 30lb on the nose. It was a mirror known as the Pig, a former proper chunk when, a few seasons ago, it had been 40lb-plus. It's not about the weights; it's about getting them on the bank and realising that these are old fish that have been swimming in here for many, many years and it is a pleasure to be able say you have caught them.

As we are on the cusp of colder weather now in the season, the effectiveness of the particle approach will begin to wane, and my approach will become more boilie-based. This will

be in the hope of the carp feeding themselves up on a good quality food bait for the winter, but to be honest I was not really thinking this was going to be the winter venue for me. I came back for another session the following week in an area of the Match Lake that I had not previously fished, and it produced another 25lb 10oz mirror, but my interest was waning, and with four blanks coming over the next four weeks into late October, the lake appeared to have closed down because there was virtually nothing getting caught. I had caught 35 carp in what was actually less than five months' fishing with the closures for multiple spawning taken out of the equation.

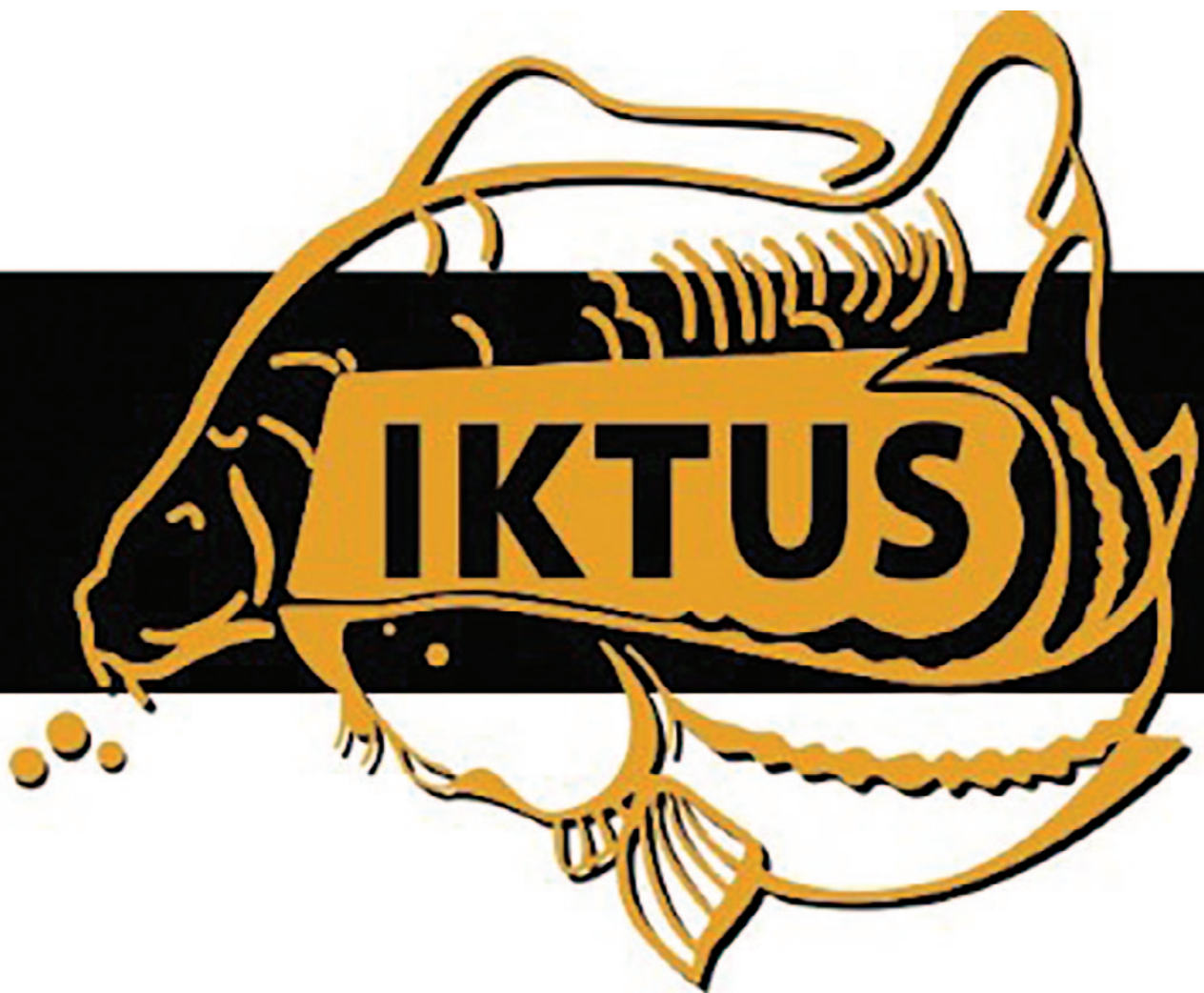
I had realised a massive ambition

to get a UK 40lb-plus common, and I had a lot of the better fish in the lake. My tackle had been instrumental in getting these carp on the bank, my baiting approach seemed to work pretty much all the time and my time on the syndicate saw me have some great highs, some punishing lows and a few good friendships made. I felt that the time was right to leave, so I sold on my ticket for the remaining period of just under six months with thoughts of a cold winter proving fruitless on such a weedy water. Well, I did get one thing wrong – the weather. It was so mild over the winter that it may well have fished better than I anticipated, as it was more like a long autumn, but on the plus side I earned some bonus points with the wife over the winter by not doing so much fishing.

There are always new angling challenges ahead, and I am still searching for that truly special water that I can actually stand a chance of getting on where I can just renew year-on-year, so the quest continues. However, if you are on the banks of a lake in a swim near me, stop by for a tea or coffee and if you are around for dinner, then you are on to a winner. Just don't offer me a Pot Noodle in return! Tight lines! ■

(Top) Final fish, a mid twenty mirror. (Left) Ginger Ben's.





FISHING RESORT



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

Trent – Triumph to Dejection

Part 3 By Mitch Godfrey

What an incredible session – euphoria, dejection, astonishment and on the whole a bad night and one to forget... After climbing a tree one afternoon on the River Trent and watching a big common and mirror coming in and out of the lily beds and feeding on the snails, while trying to decide if the common would go 30 or not, it was time to have a go.

I took a light approach at first, just free-lining a lump of bread. Although the mirror took a slight interest, it seemed that it had me sussed, and one feel of the line and it was off, like it'd just been spanked! I didn't have to wait long before the common turned up, and with the bait in place and the fish heading straight for it, my heart was in my mouth, only for it to continue stripping snails off the leaves all around and totally ignore my chunk. As it passed by, I reeled in and gave a cast right in front of its nose. This had the same outcome as my attempts with the mirror, and she was off, not to be seen again...

Not to be outdone, I decided to set up there for the night in the hope that they'd be back at some point and I'd not scared them off completely. So it was away with the stalking rod and back to get the overnight gear! I decided to go as light as I could, as there was a bit of a trek involved. I took no bivvy or bed chair, just a few rigs, bait, mat and net. There was a small gap in the lilies that was on the patrol route, so the trusted Poloni was lowered in with a couple of handfuls over the top. I was in two minds whether to drop my bait right in the middle of it all, but with 20lb Big Game on the reel and the lilies not looking too thick, I thought it was worth a go.

Within an hour it was away, and after an epic battle, I eventually got to



A view of the lilies from up the tree.

see that it was the big common after it broke the surface a few times. I was really excited of the prospect of bagging a Trent 30, only to have my world cave in as it spat the hook at the net! Absolutely gutted! It left me just staring at the spot where my hook came out for a good ten minutes, and then came the tantrum... and after that, the sulk...

Eventually I got my head back together, and the bait was put back on the spot only for it to race off again a few hours later. After another great battle, in which the fish weeded me up several times, it eventually rolled into the net. It was only the big mirror, an absolute corker of a fish, a mid twenty with huge paddles, great scale patterns and no marks... It was unbelievable to tag both fish in such a short space of time. It would have been nice to have had the brace, but with a fish like this mirror, I couldn't moan. So, it was put safely into the retainer for the morning trophy shot..

With no other indications through the night, it was time for a quick

cuppa before the photoshoot, but imagine my surprise to find the retainer completely empty! What should have been my best night ever on the river turned out to be the worst.

I was absolutely gutted again; it was a night to be remembered for all the wrong reasons.

After my disappointment of losing two big fish the week before, one of which I'm sure would have been my Trent PB, I decided on an easy life with no drama – a nice easy peg with no prebaiting (which is unheard of for me) with a simple approach...

I'd had 3kg of Bait-Tech's Poloni boilies soaking in Bait-Tech's The Juice, and was itching to give it a go, as I'd heard a lot of good reports coming in from other anglers. As I said, my approach was simple – a bag with about 50 boilies cast to a favourite spot with my own simple but deadly rig, tied with Armourlink to a Chod Twister size 7 hook.

I don't really know what possessed me, but I decided on a catfish rod too,

with a sprat on the hook fished over a kilo of semi chopped sprat. There have been a few coming out the Trent, so I thought, why not, as they were on offer in Morrisons. He who dares and all that... The night was quiet with just a couple of twitches on the cat rod (which I'm guessing were eels) until I fell asleep around midnight.

At 3am I was woken by an absolute screamer, which I was sure was the cat rod, but lifted it to find nothing there... only for my Delks to carry on screaming. Never have I hit the wrong rod before (wishful thinking, I guess), but I got it right in the end, and an excellent scrap turned up a lovely scraper twenty common.

Sacked very carefully this time, the rods went back out, and I went back to my pit, only to be woken at first light by an even faster run. This time it was definitely the cat rod, and with no pike or zander in this area, I was sure of my quarry. I hit into the cat and stopped it in its tracks. It felt a decent size, but with 20lb mono and 30lb braid hook link and a size 2 hook, I wasn't messing about.



After a minute or so, my cat came up, completely leaving the water, and I watched in total surprise as it turned into a cormorant and buggered off! You've just got to laugh! I returned

again that evening with the same approach and managed another 3am run, this time a cracking mirror. The cat rod remained silent! I was happy with that... ■



Had these over the weekend, two Trent twenties.

Gabrielle 42lb 3oz

By Paul Heseltine

Due to a number of reasons, I've struggled to get out fishing over the last eight weeks, the main reason been the loss of my mother in law, Gabrielle who sadly passed away on the 10th of September. Supporting the family always comes first, and the fishing takes a back seat.

I headed out to my syndicate water, Monks Pit, for a 48-hour session on the 24th of September. I was really shocked to find the lake was not busy with only three other anglers on. I spent a good two hours watching the water and having a catch-up with the other three guys who were fishing before deciding on my chosen swim, Little Point. I had only ever fished this swim once before in the past for a 24-hour session, so I didn't know any of the so-called hot spots. I spent a good hour leading about, as I found it quite hard to find some good areas to present my rigs over.

I finally found three spots that I was more than happy with. One was slightly choddy, so I opted to use a multi-rig over this spot, and the other two spots were clear, so I used a



23lb 14oz.

snowman rig, which consisted of an Ashima size 4 heavy carp hook, Nash combi-link for the snowman and Fox Camotex Soft for the multi-rig. My bait of choice for this session was Mad Baits CTS and Wicked White boilies in various sizes: 6mm, 10mm, 14mm and 16mm. The multi-rig was baited with a 16mm Wicked White pop-up and the snowman was baited

with a 16mm CTS bottom bait tipped with a 12mm Wicked White pop-up. This was actually my first time using the new CTS boilies, which was a big step for me, as I have so much confidence in the Addiction and Asbo, and it's hard to change something that's worked for you time and time again. But as they say, you don't know unless you try!

I baited each spot with 2kg of boilies to start off with and offered small Castaway PVA sticks over the top. This was purely to protect the hook from catching any weed on the way down to the lakebed. I was about 18 hours into my session when I started getting a few liners. This was around 3am the next morning, so with that I was up and ready, expecting a bite at any moment. The first bite came along at 4am, falling to the snowman rig, a lovely looking mirror at 26lb 7oz.

By the time I had the pictures done and the rod back out, the light was starting to come up. It was a very windy and overcast morning, ideal conditions for a daytime bite, or so I thought anyway, as that was it for the morning. I waited till around 1pm to top the spots up just to make sure I was not going to spook any fish that



26lb 1oz

were still feeding. The spot that did me a bite had another 1kg, and the other two only had 1kg between them, as I was not 100% sure it had been cleared out but felt I needed to do something just in case.

The next bite came just as it was getting dark about 19:30 again on the snowman rig. It was a very twitchy bite and a really slow fight, which was over in a matter of minutes. As soon as I slipped the net under the fish, I knew it was something special. Wow! The scales went round to 42lb 3oz, and I was absolutely blown away, as this was my second 40 from Monks this year and was very close to my current PB. A few pictures and fist pumps later saw me pondering over other members' photos, struggling to identify the fish. It was my good friend Simon who identified the fish in the end, and to my amazement it was a new 40 for the lake and an unnamed fish.

Words cannot describe how I was feeling at this point after what had already been an emotional few weeks, and then catching something as special as this I had a bit of a mini breakdown. It was obvious to me



26lb.

what to call the fish: Gabrielle, after my mum, God rest her soul. Mick, the lake owner, also confirmed it was a new 40 for the lake. To say this capture means a lot to me would be correct, and it will be with me forever.

After I managed to settle myself, I

got my head down for the night, expecting to be up early in case of an early morning bite. I was right, as at around 4am the rod ripped off again. This was a hard-fighting fish that knew every trick in the book. I swear to God it found every snag going on



33lb 3oz.

the way in, and I was very fortunate to land it. The fish was still sitting in the net when my other rod was away, but unfortunately the hook pulled almost straight away, and I lost the fish. I got both rods back out and then weighed a beautiful long common that went 23lb 14oz, a fish that I had already caught before back in spring. It's easily identifiable from the dip in its belly. It wasn't long after that when my third rod ripped into life. I had about a five-minute fight with this fish and managed to get it right under my rod tip until, oh no... hook pull!

Was a very busy morning, which could have been a lot better if I had landed all three bites, but that is the nature of this water, as the weed is very unforgiving. By this time I only had a little bit of bait left, not enough to allow me to bait all three rods, so I chose to put the last of my bait over

one rod on an area I thought to be the best for another bite, as I only had a couple of hours' fishing left before I needed to pack up. I had a really slow pack down just leaving the rods in. I was convinced if I had more bait with me I might have had a couple more bites. Anyway, it was time to reel in, I thought to myself, but I will leave the rod that's had more bait over it till last.

I had packed down two rods, and I kid you not, I was just walking to the last rod when it ripped off. It felt like a good fish until it weeded me up solid. I was starting to get worried thinking, oh no, not again. I jumped into the boat and off I headed, expecting the worst. I got over the top of the weeded area, and I felt the fish kicking again. Thank God for that! It wasn't long until I had the fish moving again. My heart was in my mouth

when I saw it was a pretty good sized common, as I've not had many good size commons in the UK, and it was a sigh of relief when I netted it. By the time I had got back to my peg a few mates had arrived to do the pictures. Justin recognised the fish straight away and told me it was a fish known as the Up Front Common, which weighed in at 33lb 3oz. Yippee! This was a new PB for me, as I had been after a 30lb common for years. I really enjoyed the cuddles with this one before putting it back.

What a session! I certainly won't forget this that's for sure. All the fish that were landed came to the new bait, and for all this to happen at such a emotional time in my life as well really gets me choked up thinking about it. Every time Gabrielle graces the bank from now on, it's going to mean so much to me. ■

42lb 3oz.





**Fine quality fishing tackle
since 1857**

www.reubenheaton.com

For more on Reuben Heaton, Sportscale & RH brands
call 01455 293000 or email 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**

An Autumn Session on Christchurch

By Scott Phillips



Well, the time had finally arrived for my autumn week session on Linch Hill's

Christchurch Lake. I had fished it at the same time of year the year before and had a decent result, landing some nice mirrors up to 39lb 5oz. The weather forecast for my week was sunny with temperatures up to 19 degrees in the day and dropping down to around 6 degrees at night, and with the air pressure at around 1035mb most of the time, I knew it was going to be a testing week.

A group of lads had booked the lake exclusively for Friday to Sunday and were due off at some point in the Sunday morning. Knowing this, I arrived at the main gates at around 6.30am even though the gates weren't due to open till around 7.30-8am. I was hoping to be first in line so that I had a good chance of getting where I wanted to be. It was due to blow a NE and a N wind consistently all the time I was there, but I was unsure whether I wanted to be on the back of it or on



the receiving end of it.

After having a chat with the guy who was in a swim that receives the northerly winds, it was clear where I needed to be, as the lake had done three bites for the social, and they were all to the same guy, the one I

was talking to. After asking him if I could drop in behind him, I then spent the next few hours walking around the lake a few times having a catch up with some mates. I finally got in my swim at around 4pm, and after having a quick lead around, I got my



Heartleys a stunning 39lb 5oz mirror that I had the same time the year before.



40lb 8oz.



The O Fish at 36lb.

BIG CARP TOP TEN Carp Fisheries



Web: cottingtonlakes.co.uk
Email: cottingtonlakes@outlook.com
Tel: 01304 380691

three rods out quite quickly because I knew the spots I wanted to fish from a previous session. The dark was soon upon me, and it wasn't long before I got in my bag and had an early night. The night passed without anything happening.

The morning soon arrived, and I wound my rods in around 9am to go and have a breakfast in the Linch Hill café. The rods were back out about 11am, and I spent the next few hours enjoying the autumn sunshine. Then at 4.10pm my left hand rod burst in to action. Straight away I waded out in to the water to play the fish. After a brief fight and it getting weeded up a couple of times, I had it safely in the landing net. Nick the bailiff was in my swim, as I had phoned him when the fish was weeded up and said that I may need the boat. He asked me if it was a decent one, and I replied that it was probably a mid 20 or maybe a 30. After it had been unhooked and treated with propolis, we then give her a weigh. When the needle went round to 40lb 8oz I was a bit surprised to say the least. It was a new UK PB common. We did a few photos and then let her go back in to her watery hole – buzzing!

The next couple of days and nights passed by with nothing happening, but I did see them munching on a hatch right in front of me for a couple of hours, and that was an experience

in itself just watching them. Thursday 4.40pm, and the same rod was away again. I went straight into the water again to play the fish, but this time it kited left at rapid speed and then went solid in the weed.

This time there was no way it would come out, so it was waders off and life jacket on. I was soon out in the boat to see if the fish was still there, and after a bit of a struggle with the wind, which resulted in me spinning around in the boat a couple of times, I managed to get the fish out, but then it went straight into another weed bed. I managed to get directly above the weed, and I slowly started to hand-line the big ball of weed up. I could clearly see my leader and most of my hooklink, and my heart sank, as I was sure that the fish had gone. I gently prodded my finger in to the weed, and much to my delight I felt a fish, so into the net went a ball of weed, and somewhere in between it all a fish.

Back on the bank with all the weed removed and the fish unhooked and treated, we were greeted with a jet black mirror that we recognised as a fish called the O Fish. This one was certainly in its autumn colours. We lifted her on to the scales, and the needle settled at bang on 36lb – absolutely buzzing. A few quick photos, and she was soon back off into the depths. The rest of Thursday passed

by as did Friday day as well, then at 5am Saturday morning the same rod burst in to life waking me up. As I came out of my bivvy it was extremely foggy and pitch black, making it hard to see anything at all. This time instead of going in the water I walked back up the bank with the rod, hoping that it would stop the fish from weeding me up, but it didn't, so back on went the waders. This time though, I managed to get the fish out fairly easily, and another decent fish was in the net. Unhooked, treated and weighed, it turned out to be 34b 14oz of Christchurch beauty.

As the fog was so bad, I had no chance of getting a picture, so I waded the fish out in the retainer and stayed up to keep an eye on it until the fog had cleared. After the fog had cleared around 7.30am, we did a few quick pics, and she was returned. The rest of the session went by quickly, and I didn't receive any more action. I was soon barrowing my gear back down to the car park. With the lake fishing hard that week with only six fish out, I felt very lucky to catch what I did.

In my eyes Christchurch is the best day ticket water in the UK, and the stock speaks for itself. There is a massive number of large fish in there, and each one in there whether it be a double or a 40 is a stunner. Roll on the next session! ■



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.

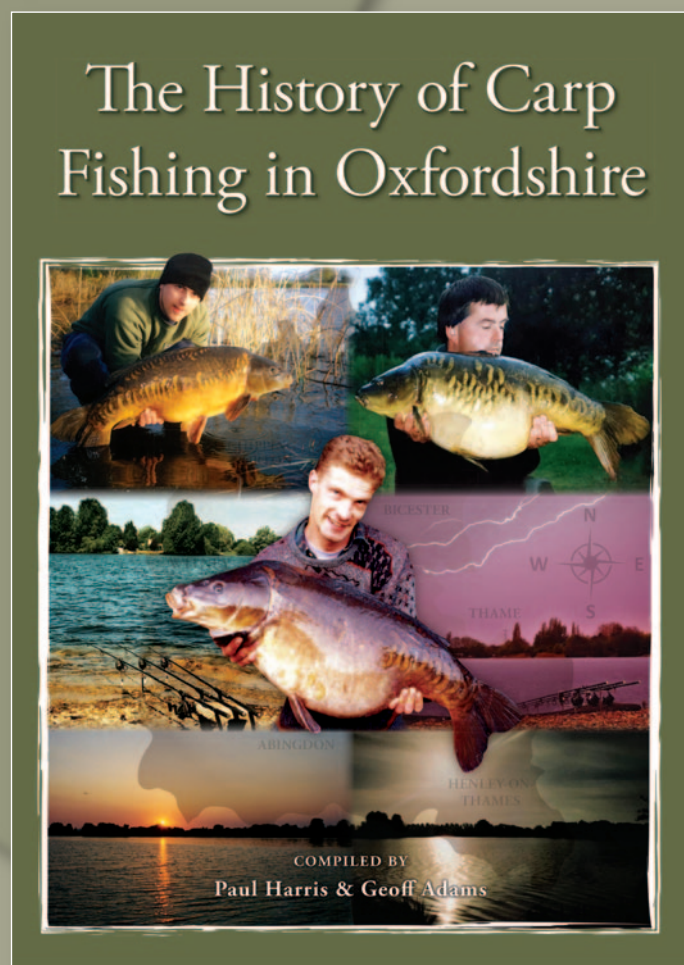
Nick Stansfield is a brilliant young Oxford carper who doesn't shout about his catches. We have two incredible chapters from him from two of the county's most iconic lakes, The Leisure Park and The Big S! Josh Chatfield has written a fantastic chapter which really gives you an insight into how fishing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



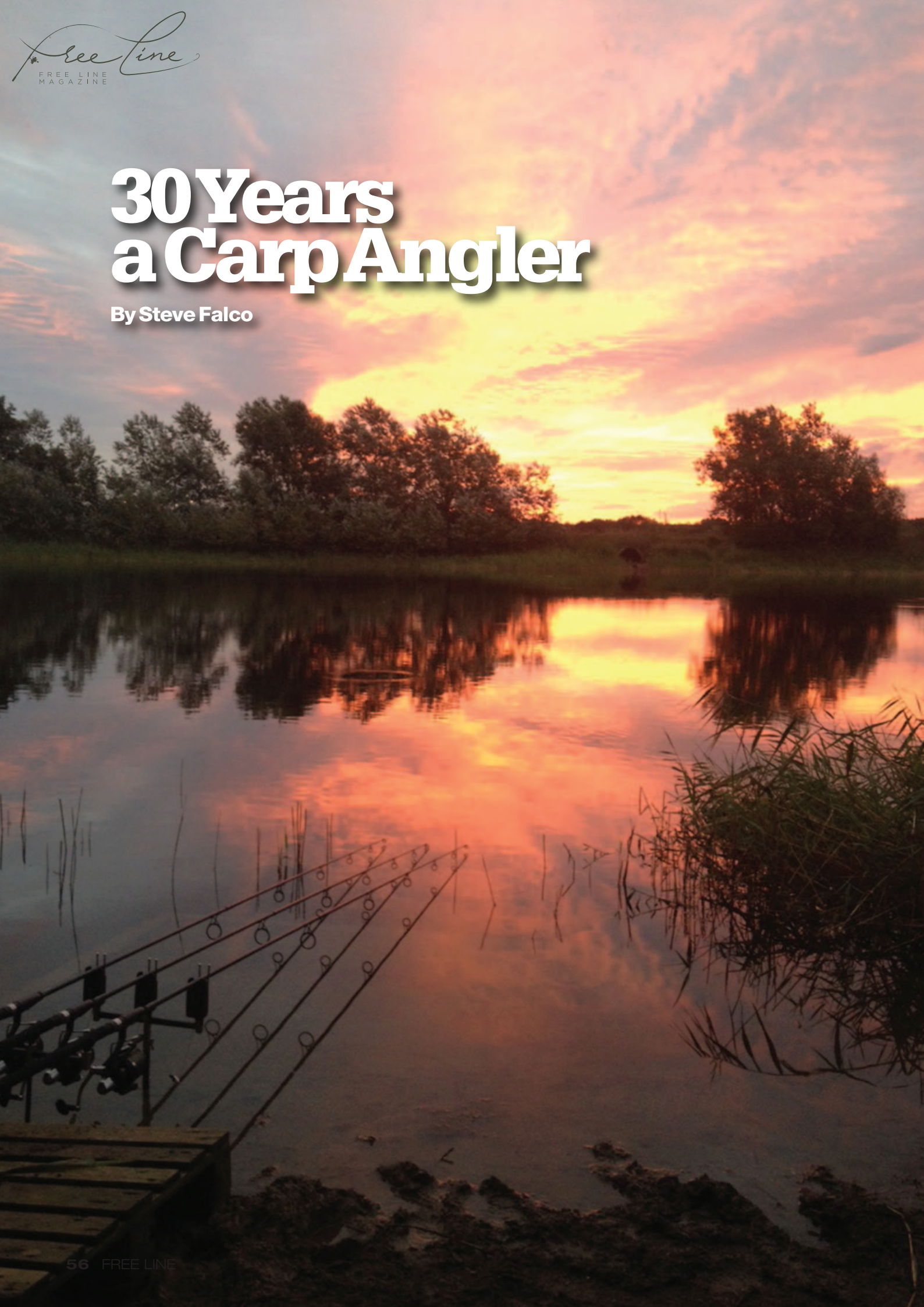
CARD: 07768 731425

PAYPAL: www.bigcarpmagazine.co.uk

AVAILABLE THIS AUTUMN

30 Years a Carp Angler

By Steve Falco



Having carp fished for over 30 years, I've seen a lot of changes in my time. It's amazing how things have developed so quickly. It doesn't seem too long since I was making my own spods out of an old shampoo bottle and a bit of cork stuck in the bottom, and attaching my washing up bottle top to my line and setting the needle on my Magno bite alarm.

So I'm basically going to start from the beginning, from when I was about 14 years old, catching doubles from small park lakes right up to fishing the big fish circuit waters of today. I suppose you could call it a sort of angling apprenticeship.

So first stop is Oakmere Lakes in Potters Bar. This was your typical park lake with dog walkers, dumped trolleys and bikes and the local council park warden who we used to dodge when doing the odd sneaky night. This was also the first place I used a boilie, which at the time would have been Richworth Tutti Fruttis. Rigs were very simple, as there weren't too many components avail-

(Top) Stanborough lakes 23lb 4oz caught in the mid-1990s.

(Below) Hook lake Measles 26lb.



able – black Dacron, Jack Hilton hooks, black anti-tangle tubing and just pub chucked into the lake. At 14 years of age I didn't know any different, but still managed to catch plenty of fish to middle doubles.

I continued through my teens bouncing between waters catching carp to upper doubles until I eventu-

ally passed my driving test, which really kickstarted my carp fishing career. I could now fish anywhere I wanted to without relying on my parents or public transport. I was keen to catch my first twenty-pounder, and living quite close to Stanborough Lakes in WGC, I decided to join the lake rather than buy day tickets every week, as I intended to spend a fair bit of time on there in search of my first twenty.

I had fished the lake in the past when I was about twelve and was well out of my depth, but now being a few years older, I felt more than ready. For those that don't know the lake, the sailing club had priority, and at weekends it was an absolute nightmare, as boats would regularly plough through your lines, and all around the the lake there would be shouts of "Can you lift your centre board please?" as line poured off your spool. There were no back leads in those days, so you basically just fished your back bank stick as high as you could to keep your line out of harm's way.

The other issue you had was the out-of-bounds area at the top end of the lake. This was separated by several buoys and was an obvious fish holding area, and still is to this day. This made swim choice very easy, but trying to get in those swims was almost impossible, coupled with the



fact that it was days-only too.

I have to admit I did struggle a little at the start, and even though I was turning up just after first light, I could never get in those top swims that gave you access to that out-of-bounds area. Eventually after several frustrating weeks enough was enough, and although there was no night fishing, I decided to turn up at 2am and just sit in the top swim until it was light enough to fish. As arrived I half expected someone to be in there before me. Thankfully there wasn't, but literally ten minutes later, I heard footsteps hurrying towards me. He then realised I was there and cursing under his breath turned around and headed to the other side of the lake. So as the first of the morning light appeared, I cast my three-bait stringer out into the lake, as near as I dared to the out-of-bounds, set the bobbin and waited with anticipation. A short while later I had my first bite, and after a spirited fight, a common of sixteen pounds was landed, which was a new personal best. Feeling very chuffed with myself, I recast the rod, and a couple of hours later I was away again. This time the fight was very

different; I just couldn't get the fish off the bottom. Up and down it plodded, and after what seemed an age I finally got the net under it. As I struggled to lift it out onto the bank, I knew I had finally banked my first twenty, and at twenty-three pounds I was buzzing.

It was now the late 90s, and a good friend of mine, Richard, ran a lovely little estate lake called Hook Lane. It was tiny, around two acres and very silty but held a good stock of 20s to 28lb, and luckily for me someone had dropped out at the last minute, so I was offered a ticket. I was properly buzzing, as I'd never fished a lake with so many good fish in it, and as I drove down the bumpy private lane and through the little gate that lead to the lake, I was greeted with a beautiful picturesque lake with lovely overhanging trees on one bank and chunks (for that time) everywhere. I immediately fell in love with the place.

The lake in the past had been fished by a few well known anglers, so it was steeped in history, and I was gagging to get stuck into a few of these very old carp with a few stories to tell I'm sure. I didn't waste any

time, and with so many fish on the top and nobody fishing, I shot back home, quickly grabbed my floater gear, and before I knew it I was pinging out mixers and watching carp after carp engulfing everything I gave them. After an hour or so one particular fish was taking close in, as a few baits had drifted on the light breeze that was pushing into a little corner. One cast was all that was needed, and as a large set of lips sucked in my hook-bait, I was connected to my first carp. It was common of just over 18lb known as the Big Common. I was chuffed to bits, so after a couple of quick snaps, I released the fish and headed home.

I returned the following week and managed another fish off the top, a mirror of 21lb. I really enjoyed my season on there and went right through the winter, ending up with several of the known residents including One Pec, the Parrot and Measles, the biggest fish in the lake, a couple of times.

The following year I decided to join a lake in the Lea Valley called Brackens for the winter. It was reasonably well stocked with 20s and also held a



Brackens in the Lea Vally Cluster at 33lb 4oz.

BIG CARP TOP TEN Carp Fisheries



Web: cottingtonlakes.co.uk
Email: cottingtonlakes@outlook.com
Tel: 01304 380691



Anchor 42lb 10oz.



Tolpits Plodder 49lb 1oz.



couple of 30s. A good friend of mine had joined with me, and between us a plan was hatched. We decided to bait two areas of the lake to give us options. I would fish mid-week and he would fish weekends, which worked a treat, and we both started to catch regularly.

We had nothing big, but it was win-

ter, and we were getting bites. On one particular occasion, I had baited both our chosen areas a few days before, and as I rocked up I was surprised to see someone in my first choice of swim. I enquired to see how the angler was doing, and he excitedly replied that he had three fish to mid-20s. He was obviously well chuffed, so

I congratulated him and headed to my second choice swim. I was a little gutted that I had primed the swim for him, but sometimes that's how things go – you can't have it all your own way. As I approached the other baited area, things started to look good with a fresh new wind pushing into that corner.

I got the rods sorted in double quick time, as the light was fading fast, and before I knew it, I was out like a light and it was morning. As the mist lifted, the right hand rod gave out a few beeps, and as I looked out towards the spot, a coot popped up and I cursed as I reeled the rod in. As I stood at the edge of the swim, there was an almighty crash down the near margin as something weighty cleared the water, so without a second thought, I flicked a bait towards the ripples and felt the lead down with a satisfying donk. It was a couple of hours later when that rod let out a series of bleeps before pulling out of the clip and ripping off, and after what



(Top) Tolpits Sandys mate 33lb 8oz.
(Left) Railway snags.



**(Above) Toadless leather 43lb 8oz.
(Bottom) Returning Toadless.**

seemed like an age, I finally netted a good fish which weighed in at 33lb 4oz, a fish known as Cluster, the biggest fish in the lake. I carried on through the winter catching several more fish, but as my ticket came to an end, I decided I was happy with what I had caught so didn't rejoin again the following year.

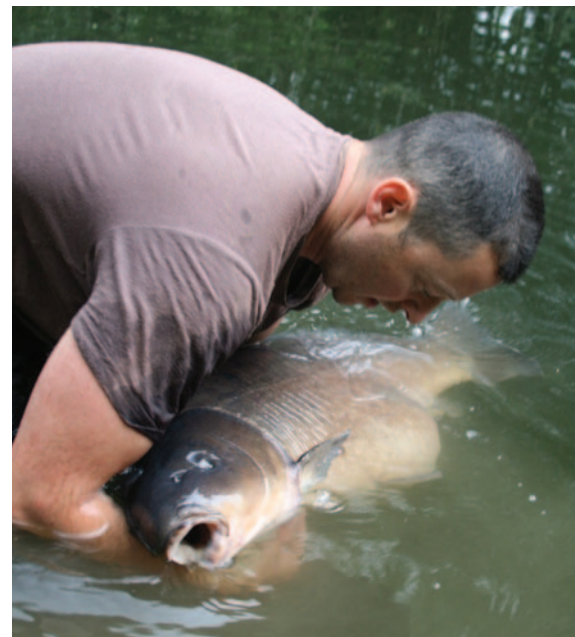
The following three years I spent fishing on a private publicity shy lake in the Colne Valley, which I later bailiffed and then ran for a further five years. This lake really did hold a good head of big fish, mainly commons to well over 40 pounds and was a real turning point in my big carp fishing career. Also around the same time I dabbled over at Frogmore for the Toadless Leather. At the time it was days only with the odd sneaky night if I felt I could get away with it. The lake was very low stock, about ten fish or so, the Leather being the biggest, and though I caught a couple of its smaller residents and lost a good fish that could have been the Leather due to it coming out a week later with another fresh hook mark in it, I did

struggle, so I decided to have a break and head to another headbanger water in the Colne Valley called Tolpits.

This lake had been well documented and fished by some very good anglers in the past, Plodder and Lester's being the two main targets, but there were some stunning back-up fish too, and they were all very special in their own way. Tolpits was your typical club lake with some swims very close to each other and very busy at weekends, so when the fish felt pressured they would head to the snags and be in there for days. But they did like to feed close in... When I say close in, I mean literally inches from the bank, and when the lake flooded they could be found in a foot of water right up the bank – amazing to watch.

I knew it was going to be hard from the start, as blanking all season for some was quite common, but after 20 nights I finally caught my first fish, one of the known 30s called Red Cheeks. It was the first time I used the washing line method, which is a great way of keeping your line out of the water, and in this case over a few dwarf lily pads. It looks a little

strange, as you have a bowstring tight line stretching across to your spot. I often got funny looks from other anglers who weren't aware of what I was doing, but it was very effective in the right situation. As the season went on, I managed another little original and a few commons that go by the name of the Renegades due to them escaping from the small lake



SECRETS OF THE THAMES

Price
£29.95

Secrets of The Thames



By Rob Maylin and friends



The River Thames flows through southern England. It is the longest river entirely in England, with a total length of 215 miles (346km) and the second longest in the United Kingdom, after the River Severn. While it is best known for flowing through London, the river also flows alongside other towns and cities, including Oxford, Reading, Henley-on-Thames, and Windsor.

The river gives its name to three informal areas: the Thames Valley, a region of England around the river between Oxford and west London; the Thames Gateway; and the greatly overlapping Thames Estuary around the tidal Thames to the east of London and including the waterway itself. Thames Valley Police is a formal body that takes its name from the river, covering three counties.

In an alternative name, derived from its long tidal reach up to Teddington Lock in south west London, the lower reaches of the river are called the Tideway.

It rises at Thames Head in Gloucestershire, and flows into the North Sea

via the Thames Estuary. On its way, it passes through London, the country's capital, where the river is deep and navigable to ships; the Thames drains the whole of Greater London. Its tidal section, reaching up to Teddington Lock, includes most of its London stretch and has a rise and fall of 7 metres (23ft).

Along its course are 45 navigation locks with accompanying weirs. Its catchment area covers a large part of South Eastern and a small part of Western England and the river is fed by 38 named tributaries. The river contains over 80 islands. With its waters varying from freshwater to almost seawater, the Thames supports a variety of wildlife and has a number of adjoining Sites of Special Scientific Interest, with the largest being in the remaining parts of the North Kent Marshes and covering 5,449 hectares (13,460 acres).

By far and away the largest carp water in UK. Now sit back and enjoy just a few of its many secrets.

Order your copy now, only 500 copies produced, so be quick!

Available Here - <http://www.bigcarpmagazine.co.uk/buy-books.html>



next door a few years earlier.

As I got stuck into my second season, one of the big two, Lesters, unfortunately died, so Plodder became the main target, especially as it had done 50lb in the winter, so everybody seem to have their sights set on her. I was starting to get amongst the fish,

catching several of the Renegade Commons and another original, Sandy's Mate at 33lb 8oz, and though Plodder had been out in the spring, it somehow had managed to evade capture for the rest of the season, so there was plenty of talk about how big she could be approaching the

autumn.

It was now mid-October, and as I turned up for my usual two-nighter, the lake was very quiet. I started the day in the All Alone swim in the bottom corner, but after seeing nothing, I decided to pack up and try to get on some fish for my first night. I borrowed my gear around to a friend who was also fishing, and he enquired as to where I fancied plotting up for the night. I replied, "I'm not setting up until I see something," and just as those words left my mouth, there was an almighty great splash from a good fish in the Railway Snags swim, so without hesitation my swim choice was made.

The light was fading fast, so I shot round to the swim, and the first thing I did was get my baiting pole out and get the rod into position on the shallow shelf under the overhanging branches. I always fished for a bite at a time on there, so 20 or so mixed sized Nash Scopex Squid boilies and a handful of hemp was all that was needed. The other rod was cast to a small gravel strip to the right, so

**(Top) Flat heat mirror 26lb.
(Below) Tolpits Red Cheeks 31lb 8oz.**





Essex Manor fish pop ribbed common and Linear that were caught with Stella.

happy with my spots and that I was on fish, I settled in for the night.

At around 2am, I received a take on the snag rod, and after a scrappy fight I landed the Ghost Common at around 25lbs. Now the interesting part was this fish was often braced with Plodder, so with this on the back of my mind, I was hoping she might slip up again. There was no further action that night or into the morning, so after having a good look in the snags and seeing nothing, I decided to reel in and get a few bits from the shops up the road.

On my return, I had another look in the snags and only saw one very small fish, so I decided to try and get the rig back in place ready for the night. I had fished the swim on a number of occasions, and there was a lovely clay patch under the branches, which I had marked with a bit of blue string for easy location, so once I was bang on the spot, it was simply matter of tipping the pole cup and it was job done.

The rod had literally only been out

15 minutes when the alarm let out few bleeps and the tip bent round slowly. I quickly lifted into the fish and managed to guide it away from danger, and in typical big fish fashion, it plodded deep for a good ten minutes before I even saw the top of the leadcore, but eventually it surfaced and went in the net first time. As I looked down at the fish, it was obvious from the width across its back that it could only be Plodder, and at 49lb 1oz, I was over the moon. With the photos done and the moment shared with some good friends that ended my time on Tolpits.

After Tolpits I opted to spend the following season back on my publicity shy lake in the Colne Valley. The fish had grown some since I last fished it, so I had an enjoyable year getting amongst all those big commons and catching several to low 40s, but as the following spring was creeping up fast, my thoughts turned to Frogmore again, home to the Toadless Leather. The thought of having the 40s set really appealed to me, and

with the lake being so close, it seemed the obvious choice for my next venture.

A lot had changed since I last fished it. For one the Leather was coming out at well over 40, never dropping below the magic mark, and a local club had taken over, so you were now allowed to do nights and it was bailiffed more regularly. So a ticket was purchased, and another target was firmly set in my sights.

Having fished the lake a few years back, I already had a bit of head start, and after a few visits before the season started little had changed. The lake contained 13 known carp, the Leather being by far the biggest, and rest being made up of commons and mirrors to upper 20s.

It was March when I decided on my first session. As usual there wasn't much to go on, with the odd tench rolling, so as a starting point, I decided to give an area known as Summer Bay a go. It was nicely sheltered from any cold winds by a couple of small islands, and it got a fair



amount of sun throughout the day, but more importantly a friend had caught the Leather from this area the same time last year, so I decided on a single night there to get the ball rolling. Although I received no action that first night, I did hear a good fish crash out in the early hours, which made me stay a second night, but nothing slipped up, not even a tench or bream, so I headed for home.

I continued with my two-nighters each week and made a point of walking the lake as much as possible. It really was a maze of islands and snags, and with so many safe hiding areas, it was obvious why it could be difficult at times.

I finally got my first carp bite in May. I was fishing a swim known as Pole Position, and there was a lovely overhanging bush to the corner of an

island, which was nice and gravely underneath. The take came around 9pm, and after a scrappy fight, a lovely looking prehistoric mirror known as the Flathead was in the folds of my net. Not the biggest at 26lb, but a very worthy capture, and it was great to get off the mark. I managed a further three carp, all commons to mid-20s as the season went on, but the Leather was due, only gracing the bank once at 44lb 8oz up til then.

It was now July, and I started to bait an area known as the Finger Bay. The swim was very tight and gave access to a very narrow channel with snags either side. It was a proper hit and hold swim, but she seemed very comfortable in there, so I decided to trickle a couple of kilos of bait under a small overhanging marginal bush on a regular basis.

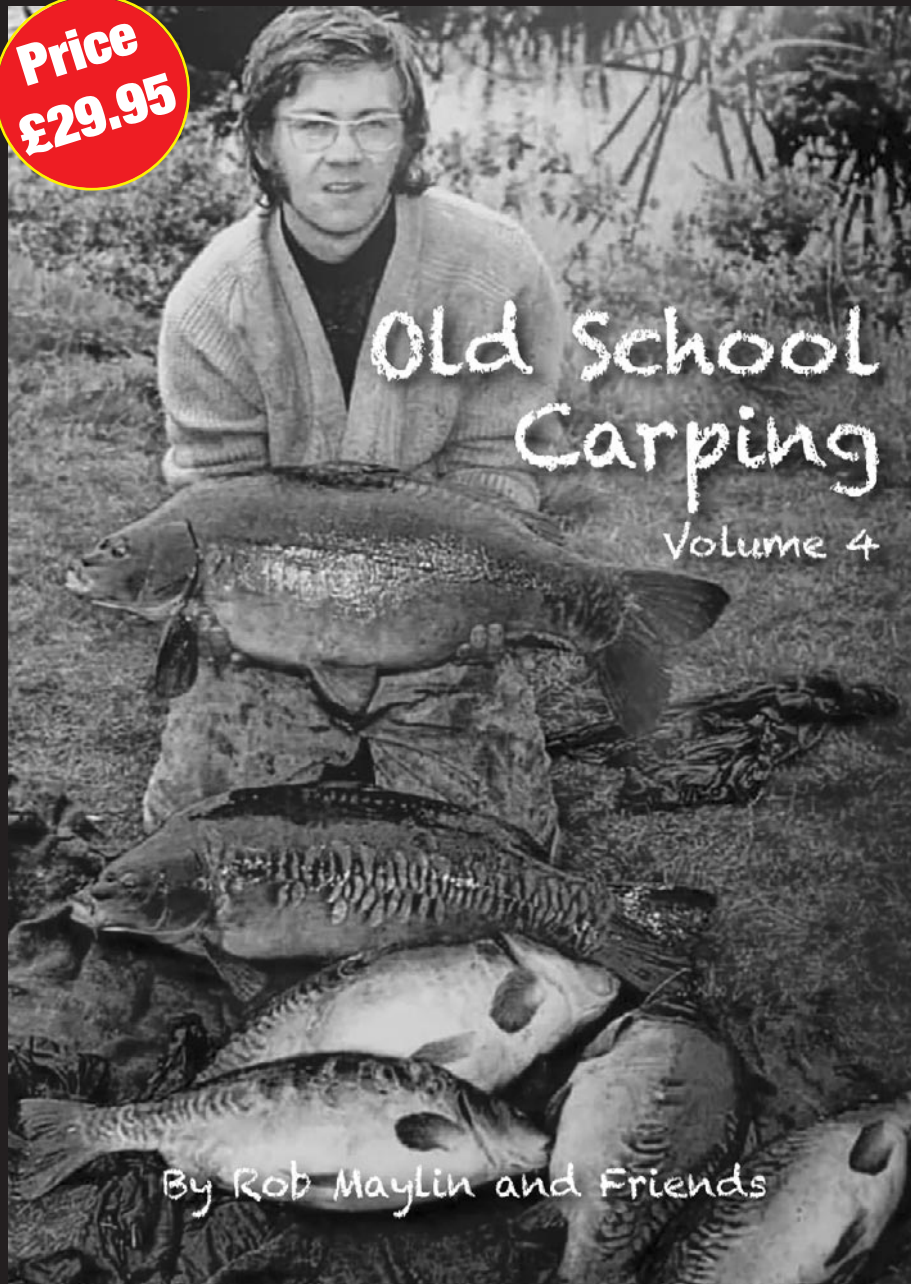
Every time I checked the spot, the bait was gone, and on one particular occasion as I turned up for a couple of nights I clocked the Leather looking very active over my spot. She seemed to be searching out the area, obvi-



(Top) Stella 49lb 2oz.
(Left) Stella on the scales.

OLD SCHOOL CARPING VOLUME 4

Price
£29.95



The 'Old School' series has become one of our most popular sets of books we have ever published. It appears that, in this fast-moving society we find ourselves, more and more anglers are keen to look back at how things used to be, where it all started, before the commercialism that now controls our angling, before the 'sponsored angler', before Facebook, the Internet, or even mobile phones! However, did we survive? It certainly was a very different sort of carp angling to today's high pace, remote control, Snapchattling, wannabe blogger's world we find ourselves in.

Our contributors to volume 4 are the unsung heroes of that bygone age who were catching carp years ago before the hair rig when not everyone could catch them quite so easily.

But the big difference between the line-up for this volume is that these anglers' names may not be known to you. Unlike our previous volumes this one is not all about the famous anglers of this time. Volume 4 is about many of the very successful anglers who did not seek fame by publicising their catches at the time.

Anglers who smashed their venues and the record books but kept quiet until

now. So, let's take a look at what Volume 4 has to offer, and why I consider it the best yet. Here is a brief synopsis of volume 4's line up and what their chapters are about. A Brief Moment in Time by Kevin Grozier, My Early Carp Life by Anthony Rogers, A Tale of Two Twenties by Dave Miller, Back to the Old Days by William Lovett, Blackroot Pool by Brian Ingram, The Old School Scrapbook, The Seventies by Christopher Davis, Yateley North Lake June 1985 by Nick Peat, Early Carping Memories of Broadwater by Phil Martyn, The Tale of a Twenty Pounder (My first) by Steven Hall, Looking Back – Old School by Steve Fisher, Early Seventies Carping by Gerry Giles, My Introduction to Carp Fishing by Lee Fisher, Billingsgate in Focus by Kris Ford, Old Skool Carping by Paul Tidiman, 'Billy' the Mirror, Church Pool, Patshull by Tim Thornton and My First Doubles by Stewart Crowther.

A fantastic, 'one off' collection of tales from a bygone age from many of the most successful but most secretive anglers of the good old days.

Order your copy now, only 500 copies produced, so be quick!

Available Here - <http://www.bigcarpmagazine.co.uk/buy-books.html>

ously getting used to a free meal each week. So this was my chance... I got my stuff round to the swim and set up right back, as the spot was only a couple feet from the bank. I got everything sorted as quietly as I could and opted to fish just one rod.

By now she had swum out of the bay and taken sanctuary under a big tree to the right, so while she was out of harm's way, I hand placed my bait on the clean gravel under the bush and baited with around 25 whole and chopped Nash Scopex Squid boilies. It was so close to the bank that my leadcore was actually hanging from the tip ring of the rod.

So with the trap set, I was half expecting her to slip up in the night or early hours, but as I awoke at first light to not even a bleep and all the bait still present, I must admit I was little disappointed. I really thought that was my chance.

A couple of hours passed accompanied by several cups of tea before I noticed a few ripples coming from under the bush. I cursed, as I put it down to a coot or moorhen that had been hanging around the day before, but I needed to make sure, so I quietly peered over the water's edge and

couldn't quite believe my eyes... There was the Leather right over my spot, its tail breaking the surface as it fed, and then all of a sudden it froze before drifting off. I thought I had spooked it, but as I looked to rod, the bobbin shot up, the tip bent round, and I was in! What an amazing experience, but knowing what was on the end, I had a very tense five minutes trying to keep her away from all the overhanging trees and snags. Eventually though, she took a few gasps of air, and I waded out to net her first time. Toadless was mine, and at 43lb 8oz, I was over the moon – the 40s set was complete!

After catching Toadless, I returned to the Lea Valley to a club lake I'd recently gained membership to and was lucky enough to catch a couple of the bigger residents on my first two trips. But then another ticket came up for a lake that needs no introduction, the Essex Manor, famous for its big fish and equally some of the anglers that had fished there in the past, and now I had a chance to fish there myself, so the club lake would have to wait.

As the fish were so well documented, I already had a good idea what the lake held, and some of the ones I would really like to catch, Northern and Stella were right up there, and the Ghost Lin really appealed to me too. So rather than start straight away, thinking it would be busy, I didn't turn up for my first session until the middle of May. I didn't have a clue where it was, but eventually I stumbled across it, and at last my campaign was underway.

As did my very first lap of the lake, I was surprised how quiet it was, with only two other anglers down. There were so many swims to choose from and no fish showing, so I really was struggling to decide where to go. Then a friend called, enquiring how was getting on. I explained the situation, and he immediately said get in a swim called End Pads, as it's always good for a bite and did its fair share of fish, so with that advice taken on board that's where my first three nights were spent.

I got the rods sorted, getting the best drops I could. I didn't want to go too mad thrashing it to a foam on my first session. Bait choice was easy – Nash's TG Active, which had served a fellow consultant so well the previous



(Above) Fist pump after catching stella.
(Bottom left) Showing fish on the Manor.



year. Simple pop-up rigs finished my setup off, and although the fish did start to show in the evening, all I had for my efforts was a catfish of around 50lb.

I returned the following week and started off in a swim known as the Slope. There was a guy in End Pads where I had fished the previous week, and after a quick chat he said he was off first thing in the morning and had caught a couple of fish that day, so I decided to be up at first light to secure the swim the following morning.

So with two nights left, I thought I would have a lead about to try and find some harder areas to present my baits, and on my first cast it absolutely cracked down. It was a small gravelly patch surrounded by firmer silt, so I placed two rods on that and the third rod tight to the reed line. So with the traps set, I felt confident of a bite, and sure enough a couple of hours later I was away, and after a short fight, I was off the mark with a low 30 common. I ended the session with a further two 30s, both mirrors – a right result, which made the M25 traffic bearable on the way home.

The lake didn't fish particularly well in the following few weeks, and I only managed a low 20 fully scaled, but finally some decent weather was due, and as luck would have it, the swim I needed to be in was free. Nothing happened during the day, but at first light I was away, and I landed a lovely 29lb common. Just as was about to lift the fish out, the middle rod signalled a take. The fish just came straight to the top and into the net with the common, and it turned out to be the beautifully scaled Anchor at 42lb, my first Manor 40. I continued to catch throughout the season, including Cluster at 38lb 8oz, the Ghost Lin-ear at 34, and several other 30s too.

It was now winter, and I really love this time of year. There are fewer people on the bank, and the fish are in superb condition sporting their winter colours. Christmas was approaching fast, so this was going to be my last trip of the year, and as I turned up for a two-nighter, there was a lovely warm wind pushing into the bottom corner. Traditionally most people had

**(Top) Manor morning and looking out towards the end pads swim.
(Below) Essex Manor Carp, Ghost Lin and cluster.**



concentrated in the deeper middle areas, but I just had a feeling a few fish might have moved into the shallower warmer water, so that's where I headed. I knew this particular swim quite well now, so the rods went out quite quickly with no issues, and just as it got dark I was away with a small Averly mirror of around 28lb, a proper result for that time of year, so I went to bed happy knowing I was off the mark so early.

The night passed quietly, and it was around 9am when I had a slow take on the left hand rod. It didn't do

much; it just plodded up and down and eventually just popped up between a few dead reeds where I netted it. At first I didn't think it was too big, but as I looked a little closer, there was no mistaking the two-tone signature of Stella, and at 49lb 2oz, I was over the moon.

I didn't really care if I caught on the second night, but unbelievably I had a further two bites, one being the Pop Ribbed Common at 31, and a lovely low 30 linear mirror, which capped off a very memorable first year on the Manor. ■



Undercover Carping

by Mitch Godfrey

What can I say? This fish took me so long to catch. I've certainly never worked so hard for a fish in my life. Weeks of baiting a very large unfished lake with only a handful of fish in is no picnic. It all started early summer on a hot sunny day. As with every other year I skived off work on the day I knew they were going to spawn so I could have a good drive around looking at lakes with no history to see what was in there.

This lake took me by surprise, as I and most other people I'd talked to thought it to be barren of carp, as it used to be fished years ago, but no carp ever came out. But on this day in early June, I was staring at a fish that had to go 40, and for Notts, that's some fish. Alongside her was this long, dark common, which I believed at the time to go 30, as she was nearly as wide and much longer! Only five other fish were present, and for a lake of this size, it made it a gigantic task, plus it was a case of sneaking in and out and traveling light, as there's no

fishing or driving near the lake.

I'd thankfully just been sponsored by Bait-tech and knew this fish would need some serious baiting to catch, but little did I know how much! When I'd sorted a night to fish, I'd bait for seven days leading up to it, putting in a kilo of boilies every night, and on my first five trips, I had absolutely no indications at all. So I decided on 2kg every night, and although I didn't catch, I did have a run, but unknown to me a ton of weed had been blown into my lines by a stiff easterly during the night.

Having had success with the 2kg, I kept with this for the next ten attempts without a sniff. Time to up the ante, so I prepared 2kg of boilies, 2kg of growlers (Bait-Tech's tiger nuts) and a kilo of 14mm pellet. I also soaked all the nuts and boilies in the juice for extra attraction. When Saturday came around, it was looking good with low pressure, wind and rain. The traps were set, and within minutes the Delks burst into life. This was the first of many takes that night, and I ended up with no sleep but plenty of bream, the best going 14lb 8oz.

To be honest, I decided that that

was that the next morning... I'd given it my best shot, and it had beaten me good and proper. But two weeks I found myself later going through it all again with the exact same procedure, but without the pellet this time, as I was sure that was the reason for all the bream. So it was that I spent my 18th night on the lake without a single bleep, until first light when about forty mallards unusually started diving on my bait. They'd obviously been there every morning mopping up my bait. I'd overslept on this occasion (as I'm normally away before first light), so had no idea I'd been feeding the local duck population. The next minute, one of the rods gave an indication, only for a mallard to pop up, flapping around on the surface. Luckily it came off, but it summed up my luck on this lake, and goes to show not all effort equals rewards.

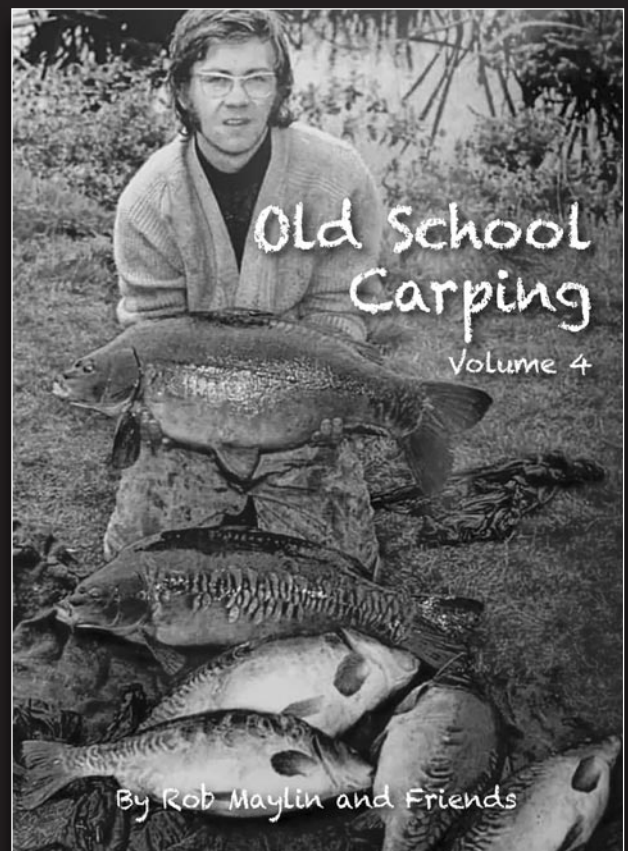
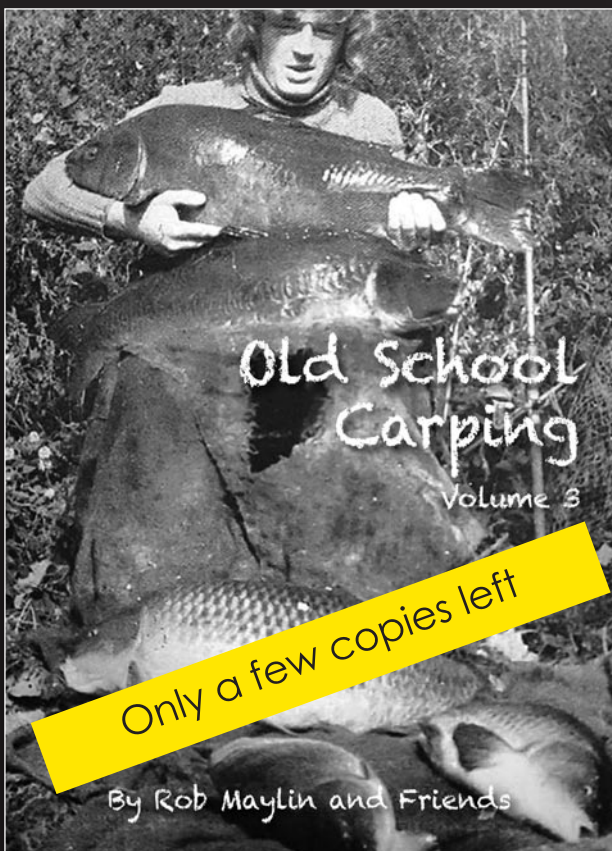
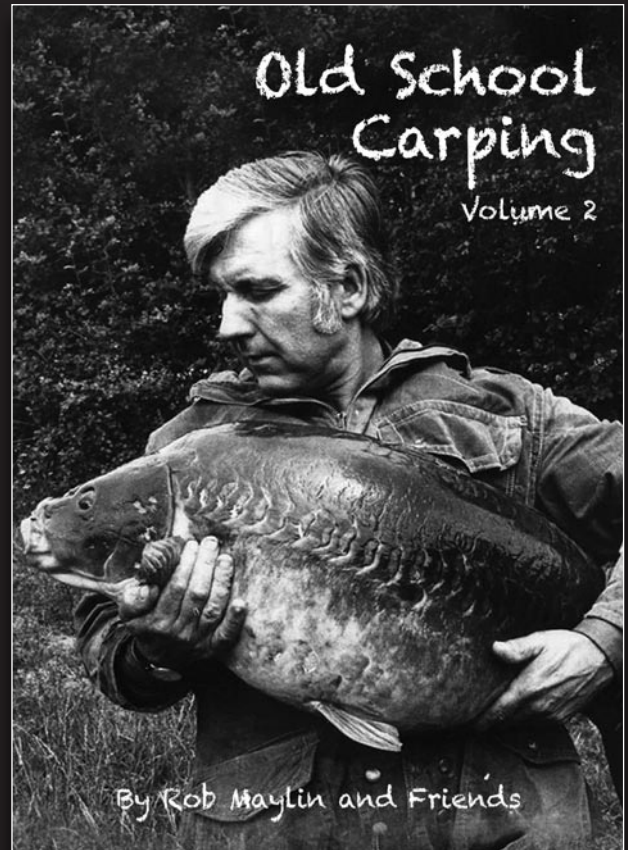
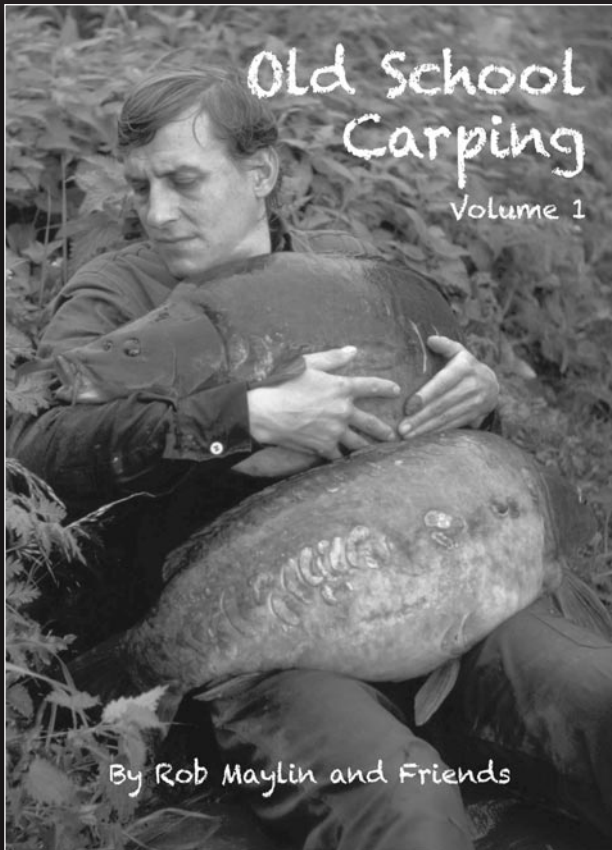
Gloomily I wrapped up the rod, and was just going down for the second and last rods, when the Delk sounded out two bleeps. With all the ducks gone, it could only be a liner, so I decided to leave it another ten minutes. The early morning dog walkers were starting to appear, and I really

should have been gone, but I was desperate. Three minutes later, and it was away. I was on it like a car bonnet, and an excellent scrap ensued, with me eventually sliding the net under this lovely long, dark common. What a relief! Not thirty like I thought, as it had no depth; it was actually wider than it was deep!

Whether I want to go through it again for the big mirror, I'm not sure, but I've never been happier to land any fish, so maybe effort does equal rewards. ■



OLD SCHOOL CARPING SERIES



07768 731425

www.bigcarpmagazine.co.uk

Chasing Dreams – Twynersh Pit 3

Part 2 by Warren Fenn

It was now late August, and after such a great start to the year on Twynersh's Pit 3, my spring campaign was unfortunately put on hold. A new career path in plumbing and heating was rapidly developing, which forced me to take the summer off from chasing Nina so I could fully focus on the demands of this new adventure in life. The summer months rapidly passed though, and soon enough September approached. I was owed some well-deserved holiday time after a hectic summer working, which prompted the thoughts of dusting my rods off and having a dabble on Pit 3. After completely cutting off from the lake, I was eager to find out what had occurred in my absence.

It was a warm Thursday evening, and with work finishing on time for once, I managed to get down to Pit 3 for an eagerly awaited walk round. As I arrived at the lake, I noticed Pit 3 had completely changed since I was last there in spring, with the surrounding foliage in full effect and the lake beaming with life. After a good wander round and a much needed catch-up with a couple of regular anglers who were fishing, I found out that the Queen of her quarry, Nina, was yet to

make an appearance this year and had been regularly seen in the Tree-line area. Being back at the lake brought the buzz back instantly, and the reason why I was fishing Pit 3 slowly crept back in. I started to feel I hadn't missed out on much after speaking to the bailiff, Kevin, and the time was right to pick up from where I left off, and with that, the fire within was burning once more, and the Nina hunt was on.

It was the beginning of September, and I had booked a week off from work. Eager to get my teeth stuck back into Pit 3, I arrived at the lake on the Monday afternoon. On arrival I saw there were only two others on, one in the Boaty and the other in the Channel swim. As I walked round, I was surprised to see the Treeline swim was free – a swim I was eager to check out and fish in the spring, but which was unfortunately always taken. So straight away I placed a bucket in the swim to secure it and eagerly went for a wander down its snaggy tree-lined bank in the hope I could spot a few carp and maybe Nina.

As I quietly crept along the snaggy bank, I came to the largest snag, a tree that had grown out off the bank like a mushroom, covering a large amount

of water space. Peeking inside through the branches of this impressive snag was like being at a sea life aquarium – I had never seen anything like it. I must have seen around 25 carp hiding within the cool, shaded branches of this monstrous snag, keeping out of the blistering summer's sun. I stood there excited like a child at Toys 'R' Us, watching them at close quarters, looking for detailed markings on each carp so I could make out which one was which. It was an unforgettable moment in my angling experience seeing so many decent carp in such a confined space, oblivious to my presence. Over half the stock must have been inside this snag, but there was no sign of Nina.

However there was one carp that did stick out from the rest. As I watched the carp swim under an undercut section of the bank, a rather large, clean-looking linear appeared from out of the darkness, a carp I never realised was in Pit 3, but one I now dearly wanted. She stood out like a diamond amongst stones and looked well over 30 too. There was actually a carp in Pit 3 called the Big Lin, one which had a scattered row of scales on both sides that other anglers that fished Pit 3 were adamant was the one I saw, but I



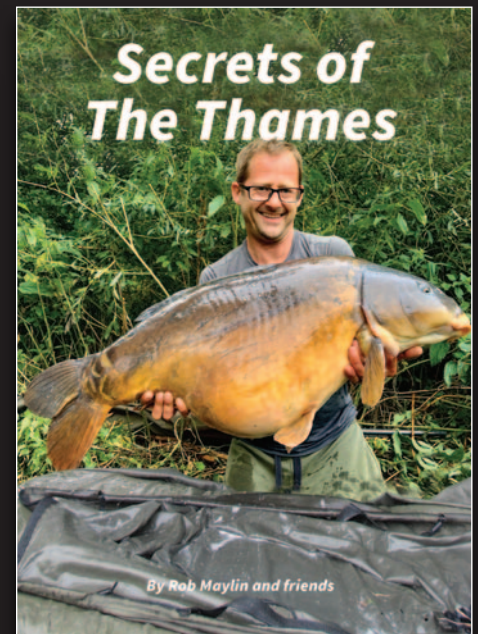
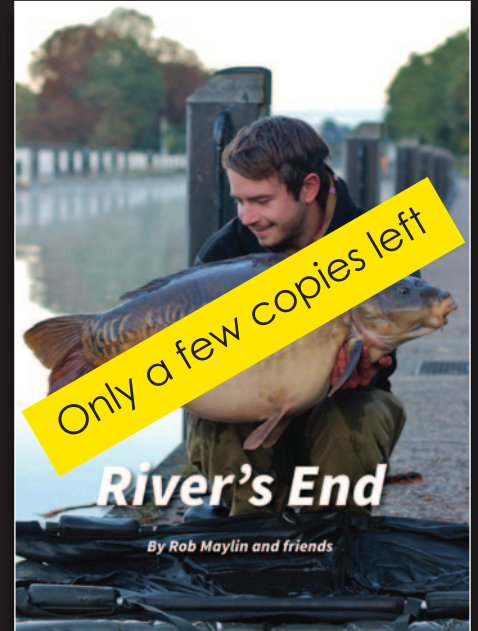
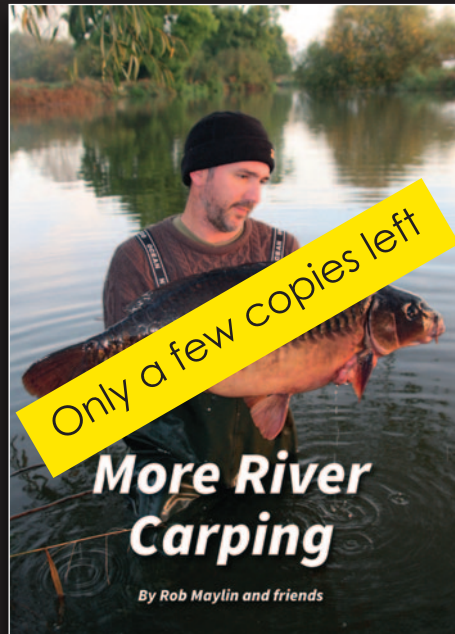
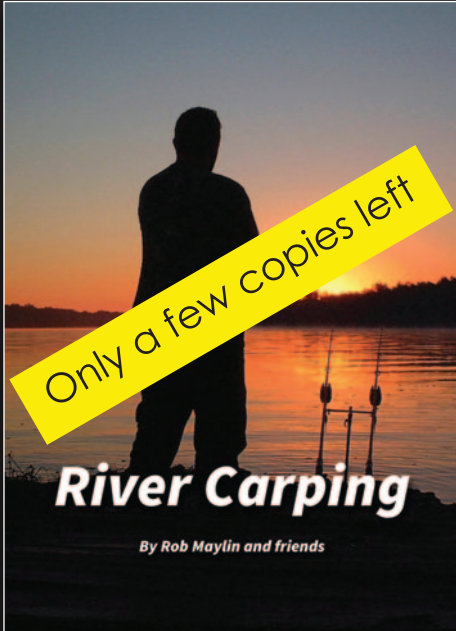
Common.



Scarred common.

THE RIVER CARPING SERIES

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



07768 731425

www.bigcarpmagazine.co.uk



The long common.

wasn't so convinced, as from pictures I had seen of the Big Lin, the one I saw that afternoon was a different carp completely.

Walking back to the swim for a split second I forgot all about Nina, as the linear I saw was all I could think about. Not seeing Nina at all in the snag, I still opted to fish the treeline, as seeing so many fish and having three days to spare, I knew she couldn't be far away. 40 minutes later, I was all set up in the treeline. I chose to fish two rods along the treeline, one to where I saw carp moving along the huge snag and the other in a hole a little further up the bank in another large snag. I decided to fish a third rod, which I flicked to a lovely silt spot off the corner of the island where I saw some bubbling on my arrival. I kept it simple using what worked for me in spring and of course the ever-faithful Tuna and Garlic. Seeing the way the carp reacted to this bait through the spring, I had confidence it would get me bites. With all three rods out, I sat back going into the night, ready on my toes for that first vicious take.

The night passed without a bleep,

and so did the morning, but it still looked good for a bite. Getting itchy feet, I decided to reel in to have a look back up the snaggy treeline again. There was no sign of the linear or Nina, but the carp were still there! I

trickled some broken boilies into the snag where the carp were to see if they were willing to feed, and sure enough they were straight on it. I decided to leave my rods out for the day to rest the swim in the hope that



Returning the long common.



Original woodcarving.



Josh.



**(Above) Nina's mouth.
(Below) Nina.**

feeding the carp in the snags would encourage them out in the night and prompt them to feed on my spots after having sampled my bait in the snag through the day. I got the rods back out around 7ish, hoping my plan would work.

Going into the night the treeline looked far more active than the first night with ripples coming out from

within the snag. It was around 12am when my right rod was away with the bobbin bouncing up and down. I shot out of bed in a second and bent the rod into a jerky pressure as the carp tried to throw the hook. A few moments later I had the carp in front of me and under control as I scooped her up first time – result! Switching my head torch on and peering into the net, I recognised the carp straight away; it was a fish called Josh, one of the really old mirrors in Pit 3. He had a brother called Hoover, similar in

looks and much sought after by many.

Moving the old carp carefully to my unhooking mat I could see the carp in all its glory, a cracking, wily old carp indeed. On the scales he went 28lb 13oz, but the weight really was irrelevant with this one. I took a few lovely self-takes and popped him back into his watery home. Unable to get the rod back out to the spot due to the darkness and the tricky cast to the snaggy bank, I left it out and would get it back out at first light. Nothing else occurred through the night, but I did manage to hook a bream off the island at around 5am. I got the island rod back out first time, but as I was sinking the line, a kingfisher sat half way down my rod staring at me, which was a truly magical moment. If that ain't a sign of good luck, I don't know what is!

Nothing happened for the rest of that morning, and it looked like bite time had long gone. I was getting itchy feet to reel in and have a walk down the snaggy bank again, when out of nowhere I received a violent take off the kingfisher rod to the island – talk about luck, eh? The fish weeded me up instantly, but with slow, heavy pressure on the rod the fish came free, and I slowly pulled what felt like a decent fish towards



Big Carp Magazine!

a history of excellence



AVAILABLE AS A DIGITAL DOWNLOAD

Yes, you can purchase Big Carp magazine as an App downloadable to your iPad, iPhone, iPod Touch, PC and Mac and read the only carp magazine worth reading anywhere you go...



Available on the
App Store



Available on
Android

 pocketmags.com



me. The carp stayed on the surface throughout the rest of the fight as I slowly pulled him towards me, and moments later he was mine. I recognised the carp straight away as the Match Lake Mirror, a lovely looking, clean mirror, which went 31lb on the scales. A few lovely bank and water snaps, and I popped him back.

I decided to reel my other rods in so I could go and have a quick look up the snaggy bank again. After a quick peek I saw the carp were still around and looking pretty active, so instead of resting the swim again, I decided to get the rods back out. I unfortunately lost one later that afternoon on the middle rod to the snag. I hate losing carp, but with such harsh snaggy conditions, it was inevitable.

Going into the evening of my last night, after losing one through the day, I was really hoping I could redeem the session with one more. The evening and night were uneventful, but at around 4am I received another jerky take on my right rod to the snags. It was a short, lifeless battle but resulted in one of the lake's real stunners, the Original Woodcarving, a carp that would take pride in any angler's album. The old warrior went 28lb on the scales, and after a few snaps with the camera I popped her back – a great end to a few days'



fishing.

I managed to book another week off work in mid-October around the new moon phase. If Nina hadn't been out before then, this would most likely be my last chance, as the date coincided with her last capture, which was coming up to a year now. A few anglers started to think maybe she'd passed on, but I heard from strong sources that she had been seen regularly in the treeline throughout the summer.

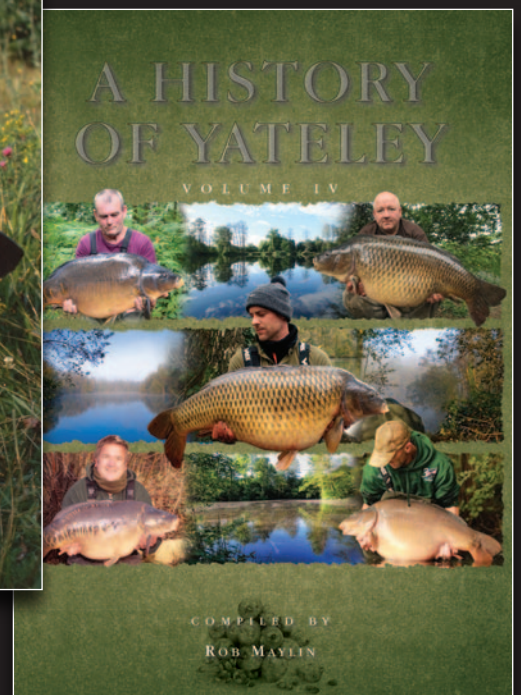
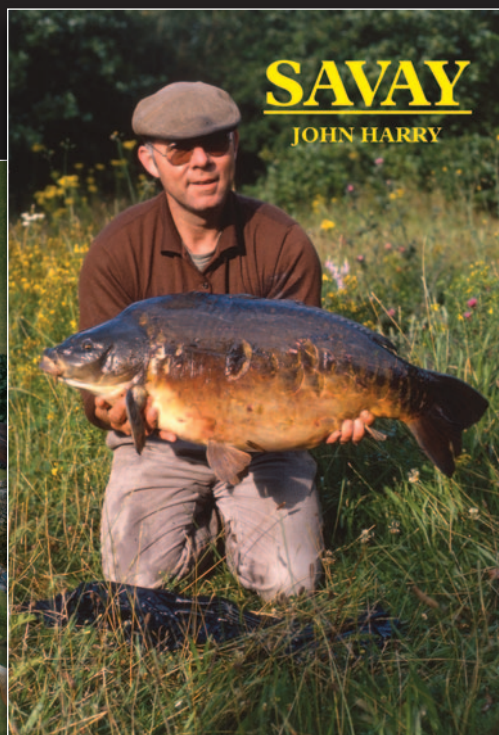
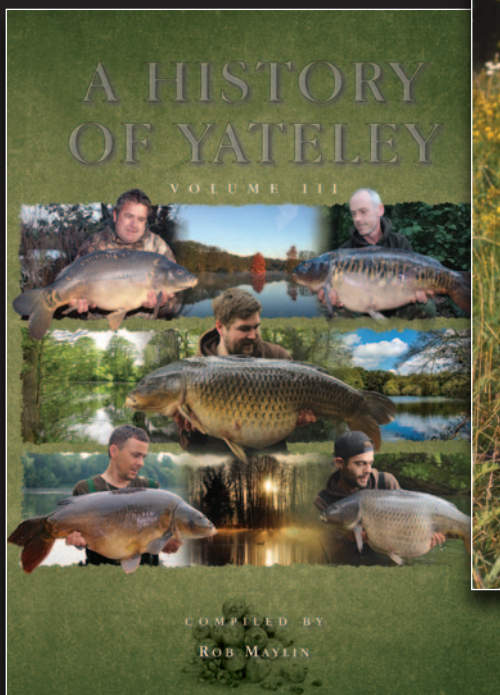
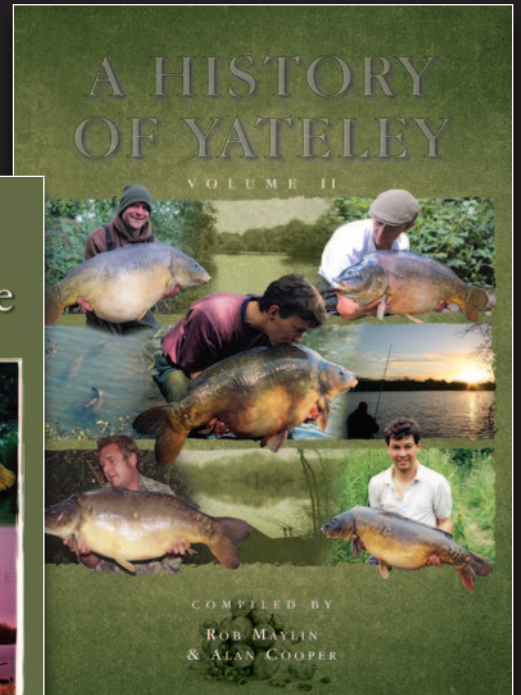
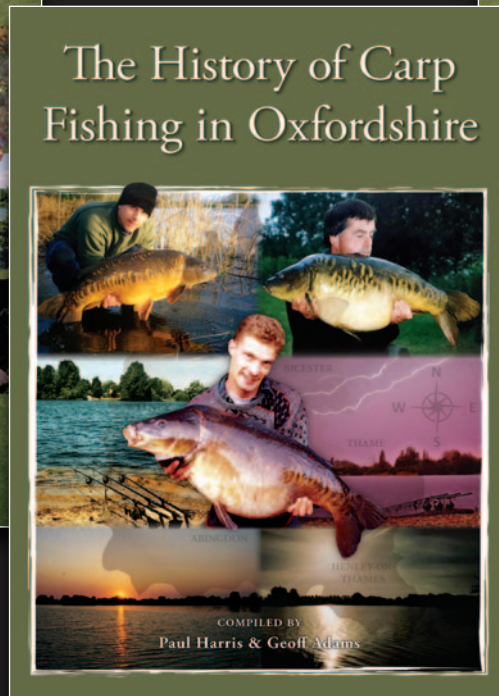
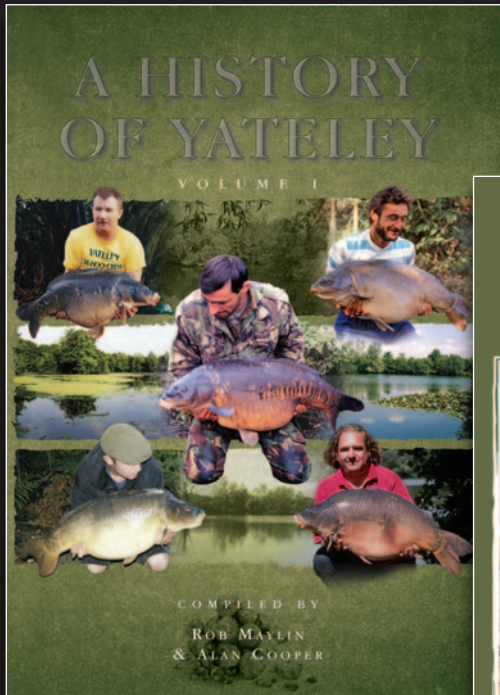
The next few weeks would really test my angling limitations. With a

**(Above) Nina passing my bait.
(Below) Nina.**

busy schedule at work, central London, I could only string together a handful of overnights but would have to battle a three-hour traffic filled journey from work to get to the lake in Chertsey before even battling with a carp, which was a task in itself. During this period, I did manage to catch some of the lake's crackers including the Long Common, a carp full of history and one of the very first



THE HISTORY SERIES



07768 731425
www.bigcarpmagazine.co.uk

Bayeswater Beauties

By Nick Dodds

The fish was caught at 12:30, Tuesday 22nd September – a black tiger to catch the Black Tiger – ironic! I used an 8in Korda Camo hook link stripped 3mm at the end, a B175 size 6, a Korda lead clip and a 4oz lead. The fish dropped the lead on the take. The fight lasted ten minutes approximately and I needed chest waders on to land it in the shal-

low margins. Rods were Harrison 3.25 Torrix and the reels were Shimano Mags in black.

The Tiger Fish was caught on the second day of three-day session on a black tiger nut fished over hemp and pigeon conditioner. The range was 14 wraps at the end of a plateau that is normally covered in weed. I fished a balanced tiger on a size 6 blowback rig.

No sign of fish, but the wind was

blowing SW into swim no.7, and the only sign I thought signified fish was a coot spooking out of the swim. Three rods were fished tight on this mark with only a handful of tigers over 3kg of feed.

This is the last of the big three fish targeted, and in my mind the hardest to trap, only caught once a season, generally following the Coconut Common at 48lb 2oz and the Caribbean Queen at 47lb 8oz. ■





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 "LETS AVE IT!"

BACK PRINT: GEEZER GETS EVEN WITH THE TUFTIES,

DRAWN BY
GLYN GOMMERSHALL



£32.95
+£4.95*



£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"



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



POLO SHIRT
£29.95
 +£4.95*

SWEAT SHIRT
£29.95
 +£4.95*

T-SHIRT
£12.95
 +£4.95*

LONG-SLEEVE T
£16.95
 +£4.95*

BEANIE HAT
£10.95
 +£4.95*

CAP
£9.95
 +£4.95*

JOGGERS
£32.95
 +£4.95*

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

Place your order online at THE BIG CARP SHOP

www.bigcarpmagazine.co.uk

Phone the order hotline 07768 731425

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

My Shropshire Club Water

By Rob Brassington

I spent a lot of time as a boy and a youth fishing but got the carp fishing bug in around 2009. In 2010 I was accepted to the Wem angling club. The club had several waters, but the jewel in the crown was Hawk Lake, a lake with great history. It was one of the top places to carp fish in the north west in the late 80s early 90s along with other local lakes such as Birch Grove and the Mangrove where many top anglers cut their teeth. I was told by lots of people that the lake was very tricky and by no means a runs water. As the lake is only around eight miles from my home and with plenty of fish in the 20s and the odd 30lb fish, it was ideal for me. The lake is around one mile long, very silty with a few bays and odd spots of lily pads, and it is also reed lined with overhanging trees. At its widest it is around 85-90 yards, but in the main is around 60 yards with an average depth of around 3-4ft.

My first year went very well with good catches when in October I caught the lake's largest resident, an original common known as the Razor,



which tipped the scales at 32lb 4oz and was a new PB for me. The following year went well with plenty of fish gracing my net. In 2012 the arrival of my second daughter meant I did not get out as often, but I still managed to catch a few on the rare visit. During the 2013 and 2014 seasons my catch rate dropped dramatically, and I could not put my finger on it. Was it my bait or was it my approach? I tried to

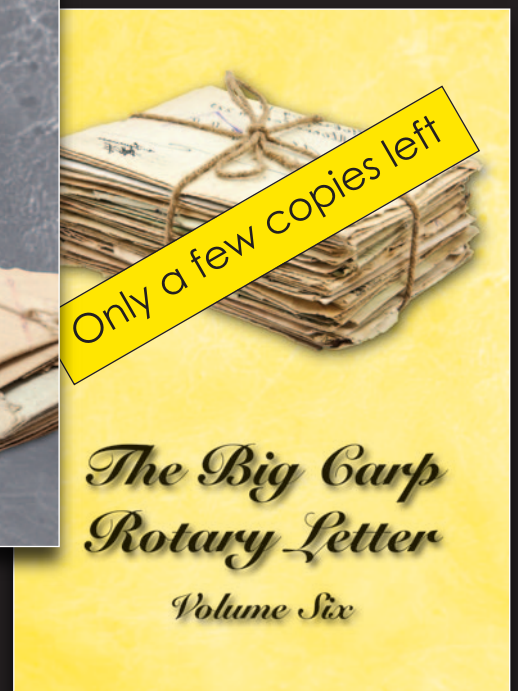
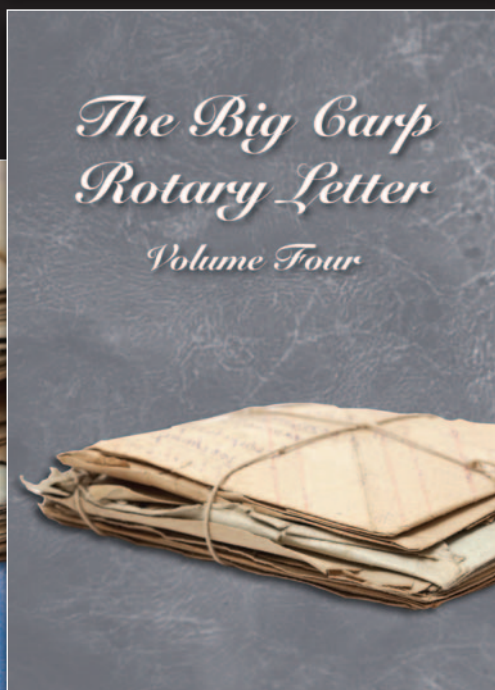
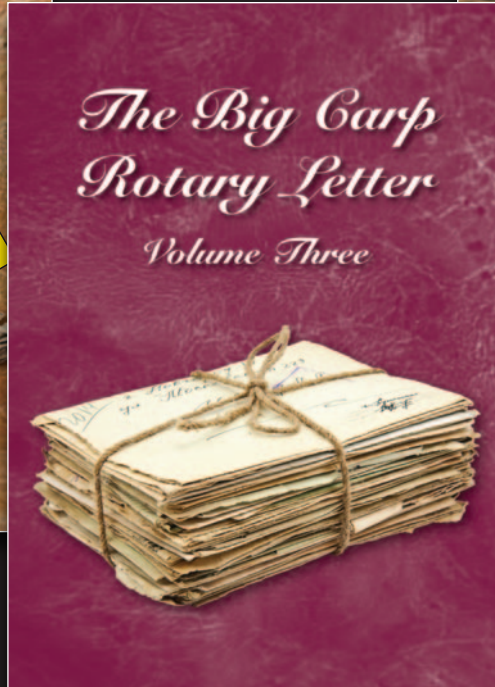
change rigs and baits, the way I had always fished the lake, but nothing seemed to work and my confidence was gone at this time. So during the closed season of 2015 I was on the lookout for something different, something the lake had never seen. Earlier that year I had bumped in to Marc 'Smurf' Twaite of Pukka Squirrel Baits at the awesome Linch Hill Complex where he was catching a 30lb





THE BIG CARP ROTARY LETTER SERIES

The greatest collection of thinking anglers ever amassed



07768 731425

www.bigcarpmagazine.co.uk



carp every trip, so I decided to give him a call after getting his number. He told me that all the range were winners, but with my lake being very silty to give the Sweet Candy SCS4 a go. My fishing buddy Tom and I ordered 25kg of 18mm Sweet Candy with matching 14mm pop-ups and Squirrel Juice ready for the start of the season.

The first session came, the lake only open to work party members. Only one area seemed to be doing fish, an area of pads, and these swims were taken. After an uneventful first night, we knew the swims were going to become free, so later the second day we moved, but yet again the night came and went with nothing. On the third morning I had got the fish feeding heavily on Sweet Candy. Their activity was crazy with lots of clouds of mud and tails everywhere, but I could not get a take. I find the water is not particularly riggy, so I almost always use a simple blowback rig

with either bottom baits or a snowman setup. Nothing seemed to work, so I decided on something a little different. I tied a small pop-up rig with two pieces of fake corn that has been soaked in the Sweet Candy juice for a while, dropped on the spot with about 50 baits chopped and whole. Within half an hour it was away, and after a short fight I had a stunning common of 21lb 12oz. Great stuff, but the session ended without anything else happening.

On my next session, after walking the whole lake, I settled where I'd seen some mudding up in the middle of the lake and the color of the water told me everything. Yet again the first night came and went with nothing. Both rods got recast with Sweet Candy Hookers juiced up and tipped with a single piece of fake corn with about 50-70 18mm baits over each rod. After about an hour I was away from the very place I had seen them clouding up the day before. After a

good fight and a few sharp runs to some overhanging trees, the stunning old original common tipped the scales at 25lb 12oz with not a mark on her. Yet again this was to be my only action, but I was now 100% confident in my new bait and they were loving it.

The next time I was out was a school holiday, which meant I had a visitor, my five-year-old daughter. She loves coming and has her little 6ft float rod and loves catching roach and perch. She stays with me for the two days I'm there but had never seen me catch one. This time was different. After putting both rods out again on a blowback rig with Sweet Candy SCS4 tipped with corn, again over 50-70 baits, after about an hour a single beep, I took a look out to where the rig was. It was only about 30 yards out, and I could see fizzing and bubbling up. Again there was a single beep and a slight lift, and I thought, is the fish hooked? But they were feed-





ing so hard, I wondered if there were bream there as well. Another single beep and slight raise so I hit it, and we were away. After a short fight there was a scaly 25lb 4oz mirror – yesssss! With only my daughter and me on, she had to take the pics, and she didn't do a bad job either. The rest of the day and first night was quiet.

The next day I moved to a bay about 80-90 yards across after seeing fish at the back, and yet again the same tactics were applied. After a few hours we were away again, and after a good battle this stunning old 27lb 4oz bar of gold common was in the net.

Grace was over the moon, as was I. This was to be the last of the action for this session. The Sweet Candy was doing me proud on every session, mainly with the big commons.

On my next session, I stuck with what was working, and yet again I had another big original common. This fish was known as One Pec and went 28lb 2oz. The fish were getting bigger every time. It was about six weeks before I went again, which ended in a blank, but I knew I was due one. Then it was time to order more bait off Marc. I wanted to try another new bait of his, so I also ordered some Secret Smurf SS4 in 18mm with some washed-out pink pop-ups to match in 10-14mm.

My next visit was on the 3rd November. Fishing had been slow,

and when I arrived at the lake there was just one person pulling off. As far as he was aware nothing had been out for several days. I opted for a swim that I knew fished well this time of the year. I knew all three of my spots, but a fish crashed out to my left tight up to the rushes, so I moved my left rod to where the fish had been showing. This was the rod I was using the Secret Smurf SS4 on while the other two were on the Sweet Candy, all on snowman rigs with different matching coloured pop-ups. The day and night came and went with nothing.

In the morning I moved my left hand rod from the rushes to a patch of gravel that I always fish, but because of the showing fish the day before I did not fish that spot for the first 24 hours. It went out with the SS4 with a 10mm washed-out pink pop-up with around 50 freebies. After about an hour or so the bobbin tightened up and line was peeling from the reel. I wound down and struck into the fish, which headed for the near margin with overhanging trees and a moored boat.

After about 15 minutes it was in the net and looked a good lump. On the mat I recognised the fish to be the Cut Tail Common, which often hits the 30lb mark. Although I had had this fish at 27lb in 2014, it had been out twice this year at 30lb 2oz and at 30lb on the nose about ten weeks ear-

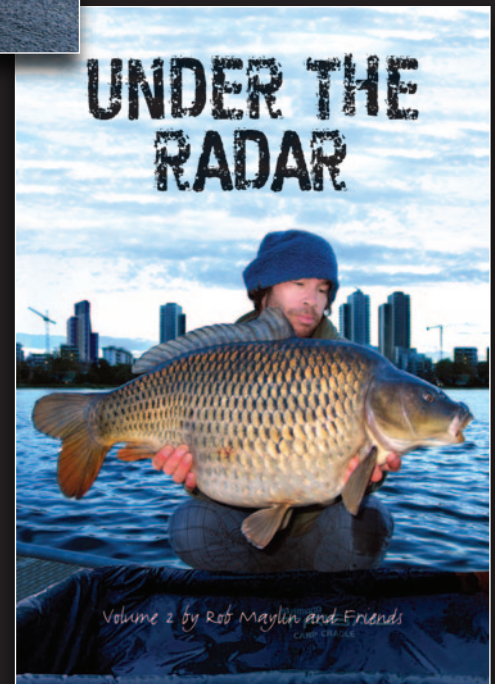
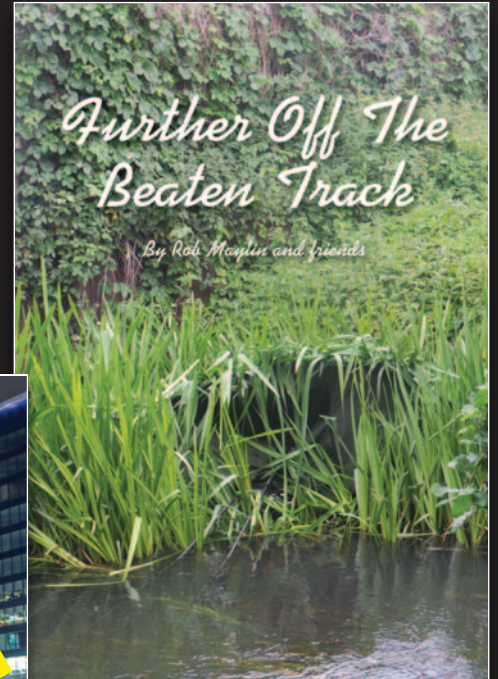
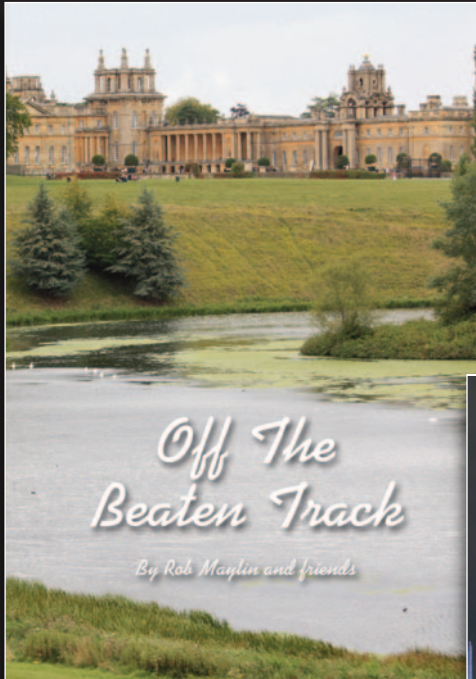
lier. To my joy it went 32lb 8oz and was a new PB. I was buzzing; this was the first time the SS4 had been in this lake, and it had landed the biggest resident up to now this year. Smurf did tell me his SS4 Fishmeal always catches the biggest common in the lake instantly. His results at Linch Hill and many other waters confirmed this, but I wasn't expecting it in the first 24 hours. The proof's certainly in the pudding so they say, and I was buzzing. I got the photos done and the rod back out.

Three hours later the same rod was away again with yet again a stunning common going 24lb 4oz. Later that night the same rod was away resulting in a 22lb common. What a 48-hour session – three fish and a new PB all on the SS4 bait, which Marc advised. I'm 100% confident in the Pukka Squirrel Baits range; it's unbelievable the big commons I've had in short sessions on the Sweet Candy this year, then the biggest resident in the lake within 24 hours on the Secret Smurf the first time I used it! Pukka! So if you're looking for something new, give it a try. It's a top bait from top people who are always willing to give advice and help... Sshhhh!!

Until next time when I've got another historic water to target not far from home, keep it real and don't ever be afraid to change bait. It worked for me, and I'll never look back! ■

OFF THE BEATEN TRACK SERIES

For lovers of the unknown, unnamed and uncaught



07768 731425

www.bigcarpmagazine.co.uk

A Christmas Cracker

By Paul Bennett

I arrived at my syndicate lake, Grenville, for my last session before the Christmas holidays. Having had to cancel my fortnightly trip at the beginning of the month due to a bout of man flu, I was desperate to get on the lake due to the incredibly unseasonal weather i.e. 14/15 degrees a few days before Christmas! What's that all about? Anyway, I was ahead of the queue at the gate, which meant I had choice of swims.

Now having studied the weather forecast for the time, I was going to be at the lake when big southwesterlies were coming. I opted to try and get on the back of it as opposed to going with it, as I wanted to be comfortable. It just so happened that the chap who was in the particular swim I wanted would be leaving late afternoon, so around I popped to have a chat and



secure the swim for when he'd left. He'd had one fish, an upper double, and to be honest at this time of year a pick up is a pick up, so he was well pleased anyway.

I left my mat and said there was no rush and left him to conclude his session. I chatted with one or two of the other members during the day until I could get set up, which was late after-





noon, but I was more than happy just to be where I wanted to be.

With the camp set up, it was now dark, but I knew the swim well, so I got the rods all clipped up and sent three singles out to my chosen spots at range for the night. I then set about

getting 10kg of Madbaits goodness ready to go out the following day i.e. various sizes and chops. Well the first night came and went without a sniff of a carp, but the wind had certainly picked up as I'd expected, and I was glad to be where I was! I left the rods

in place for most of the morning, then late morning I Spombed out the 10kg of bait that I'd prepped the night before, which was spread over quite a large area at 150-plus yards.

With that job done, it was time for some lunch, as it was now one o'clockish. At about 1.30 I received a single bleep on my middle rod, so I was out of the bivvy to see what was occurring. The bobbin then hit the rod with two more bleeps, and it was away. With excitement I picked the rod up, engaged the clutch and bent into the fish. The rod hooped right over and then stayed there, and for a few seconds there was nothing; it was as if I'd hooked the bottom of the lake! Surely not, I thought... not snagged up!

Then I felt very heavy movement as what was attached suddenly decided to take about 20 yards of line very easily, and I thought it felt a good fish. Little did I know what was about to unfold... All I can say is that this fish felt very heavy as it plodded and hung deep, and it wasn't until it was roughly 20 yards out that I got my first glimpse. I thought, that's a bloody good fish – happy days! I was thinking maybe a big thirty, and all I kept





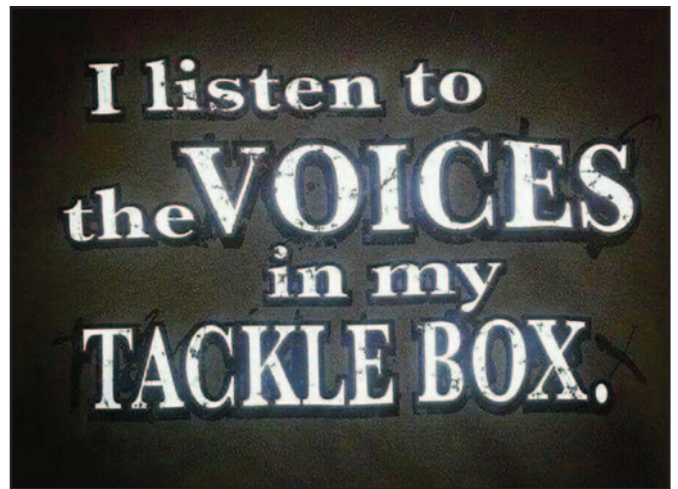
thinking was, please don't come off as it went absolutely berserk in the deep margin of the swim. But my hook hold held firm, and I eventually netted her after a twenty-minute-plus battle, most of which took place in the margin.

Once she was netted, I could relax... not! On looking at my prize nestling in my net... well, actually filling my net more like... my reaction was, "OMG, that is big – very, very big!" I was now thinking 40-plus and another new UK PB. I was shaking, and net secured, sling and scales zeroed, mat in place and waders on, it was time to transfer her in the net into another recovery sling. I lifted her onto the mat and then and only then did I realise just how big she was as I carefully lifted her, having made sure all of her fins were flat to her body. Christ, she was heavy – definitely a forty, and a big forty at that! She was massive and completely filled the mat! With the hook removed and a quick weigh, I was gobsmacked as my Reubens swung round to register

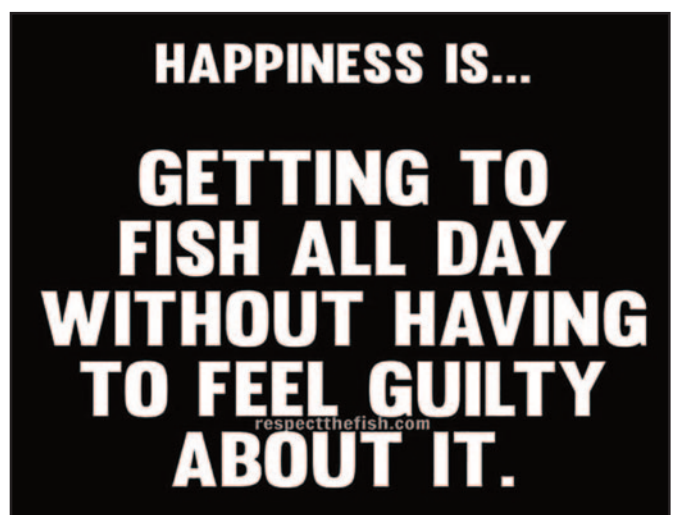
a 50lb-plus Christmas cracker. Now I was really shaking with excitement! I couldn't believe it, so I put the fish back in the water, safely secured it in a recovery sling and staked out in open water.

I made a phone call to Paul Ward, Grenville's owner, who then arrived shortly later to confirm her weight at 53lb 10oz. It was the second biggest fish out of Grenville and a new 50 for the venue that was last caught some 18 months earlier at 44lb 4oz. More importantly for me, it was my third UK PB this year and my first UK 50! Three days before Christmas, a December 50-plus, so yes, I do believe in Santa! Anyway, the photos were done, and I even had my Santa hat with me just in case! I went on to net another six December carp at 35lb 4oz, 27lb 10oz, 26lb 14oz, 20lb 9oz, 20lb 7oz and 20lb 4oz. What a winter carp session, and what an early Christmas present! I'm simply blown away, and I will be for some time to come. Thank you Paul Ward for creating the phenomenon that is Grenville Lake. ■

Carpy Humour



A recent study showed that 98% of women like when their man is fishing or hunting because it gives them more time for cleaning



LIMITED EDITION • SIGNED AND NUMBERED

Legendary Carp Paintings



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



www.bigcarpmagazine.co.uk

CARP Watching

These specially commissioned paintings are now available to purchase due to popular demand. Available in three different sizes once framed in either a Perspex clip frame or light wood natural frame and looks amazing.



No.1 – THEY'RE 'AVIN IT!

It depicts the typical 'heads down tails up' scene, which occurs beneath the surface when the carp are really on the feed.



No.2 – MARGIN MONSTER

It shows a big-framed carp beneath the overhanging tree branches, patrolling the snags and weed beds in its search for food.



No. 3 – CARP ON!

This is what it's all about, the 'take', as our quarry makes its last mistake, the hook goes in, the buzzer sounds, carp on!

AVAILABLE IN 3 SIZES:

A3 - 297mm x 420mm - £15 • A2 - 420mm x 594mm - £18 • A1 - 594mm x 841mm - £22

Postage Rates – UK £7; Europe £15; rest of the world £25

Call 01252 373658 for card payment or go to our website for secure Paypal payment.

www.bigcarpmagazine.co.uk