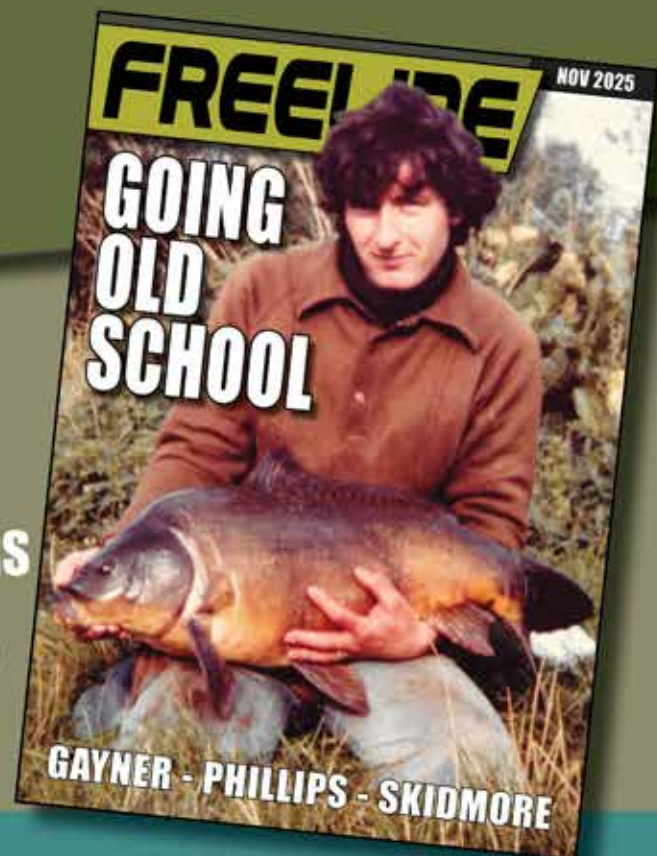


NOVEMBER ISSUES OF BIG CARP & FREELINE MAGAZINES - FREE HERE:

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**CHARLIE WRIGHT - A WATCHFUL FRIEND
LIAM WOOLCOTT - SMALL WATER WINDS
LUKE STEVENSON - LATE SEASON TIPS
MARK BRYANT - WHY BOILIES ARE BEST**



**BILL PHILLIPS - CLUB LAKE CLOOPERS
DICK GAYNER - REUNIONS
PAUL WILKINSON - WORMLEYBURY
RICHARD SKIDMORE - EGGETTS**

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BIG CARP READERS TOP TENS !!

TOP 10 DAY TICKET CARP WATERS

1	BLUEBELL LAKES
2	LINEAR FISHERIES
3	SANDHURST
4	COTTINGTON
5	FARLOWS LAKE
6	HORCOTT
7	COKING FARM
8	OAK LAKES FISHERY
9	ELPHICKS
10	ORCHID

TOP 10 FRENCH HOLIDAY VENUES

1	IKTUS
2	ABBAY LAKES
3	CRETE LAKES
4	RIBIERE
5	GIGANTICA
6	RAINBOW
7	THE AQUARIUM
8	DREAM LAKES
9	THE SECRET GARDEN
10	BROCARD

TOP 10 BAIT COMPANIES

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



TOP 10 END TACKLE COMPANIES

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

TOP 10 CARP FISHING BRANDS

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

TOP 10 CARP TACKLE SHOPS

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

TOP 10 ICONIC CARP LAKES

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

BC

BIG CARP: 352 NOV 2025



**RED
LETTER
SESSION:
GRENVILLES**

WIN A NITE HAWK WATCH WORTH £425

Aqua Liliu Clothing

WINTER VIBES



Now the warmer months are a distant memory, excitement starts to build as we prepare for those cosy log fire nights while we wait for the sound of sleigh bells and Christmas carols to sound all around us.

Here, at Aqua Liliu HQ, this also means it is time to start planning for show season and this year we are excited to announce we have added a new date to the calendar. Yes, that's right folks for the first time in the history of Aqua Liliu Clothing we will be exhibiting at the Winter Carp Show on the 29th/30th November. The stand will be set up in our usual black and yellow decor just to make sure we stand out from the crowd. So, if you are looking for inspiration on what to buy the other half for Christmas then why not pay the stand a visit where Mark and Steven will be on hand to help you in any way possible.

What's New? As well as Aqua Liliu Clothing, Mark also loves to build watches in his spare time. Mark decided to combine the two passions and build 10 limited edition automatic pieces. Once the watches went live on our social media platforms, they sold out within minutes with customers messaging asking if there was going to be anymore made in the future. We are pleased to say Mark has decided to build two special one-off pieces for the Winter Carp Show.

Watch 101, will be built using a stainless steel 316 watch case along with a striking red and blue Pepsi style bezel. Inside the watch will be a 24-jewel automatic

movement with a stunning blue dial set on top. The dial itself is unique in every way with the Aqua Liliu koi logo printed at the top and the words Aqua Liliu Clothing printed in red at the bottom. What else makes this dial unique is the fact there are only two in existence with no plans to repeat in the future.

Watch 102, will again be built using a stainless 316 case however this one is being kept under lock and key until day 1 of the show. Trust us when we say this will be worth waiting for. So, if you would like the chance to be part of Aqua Liliu history then be quick.

Also new to the ever-growing range, we bring you Predator and yes, we know it is not Carp related however, we are coming into Perch season and here at Aqua Liliu it's not just about our stunning silt pigs we want to celebrate our other species too.

Predator will be available in Navy blue with the design brought to you in a stunning pumpkin orange that features our beloved Perch hunting amongst the dark wilderness. Not only this, but you will also be able to purchase this in Olive green with the design featured in a ghostly grey and like all our designs we only ever have a limited run. These will be available in our high-quality T-shirts and hoodies and trust us when we say that anything you purchase from this family run brand will be the most comfortable item of clothing you own. We always say the proof is in the pudding and that is why we have won so many awards. There is also a rumour that Mark





is working on a Pike version, but this has not been confirmed yet, but we will keep you posted on any further developments.

If you would like to keep up with all the latest news, then why not go over to the website and subscribe then this way you will never miss out. It is easy to subscribe, just go to www.aqualiliumclothing.com and scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on the subscribe button and add your email address and that is it, as easy as that.

Best sellers. Although we are always looking at new ways to grow, it is important to remember how you got there in the first place and we would not be anywhere without our first design, The Blue Koi. So, although we have tweaked things over the years, we have decided to bring out its twin brother, The Green Koi. Please do not tell anyone but we prefer this to the Blue Koi but nevertheless both are available. We are also proud to announce a fresh stocking of The Full Monty Dog bivvy jackets; these are without doubt one of the best products we have ever manufactured and are a must have for your beloved dog.

The coat is made from a fleece material and is designed to fit semi tight to your dog. Our coats are not like your conventional dog coat where you have a Velcro strap under the belly. With the Full Monty, you put the head in followed by the front legs and zip down the back. Again, please do not take our word for it, just look at the rewards won and the reviews. I can hear you all saying I bet you have not got one in my dog's size, Trust me we have, we go from extra small right up to 4xl and if that is still not big enough, we can custom fit to your best friend.

When it comes to angling fashion and practicality, we really do try



our best to cater for everyone without compromising on quality but if you are still not sure what to get somebody then why not take advantage of our gift vouchers that range from £5.00 up to £100.00 and take out the stress of picking a gift.

We would love to feature every product we do however this would end up taking over the whole magazine and less face facts we all want to see fish and not yet another long-winded advert, so on that note we will bring this advert to a close and wish you all the best for your autumn campaign.

All the best
The Aqua Lilium Team.



Website: www.aqualiliumclothing.com

Email: aqualiliumclothing@hotmail.com

Tel: 07854629130

You can also reach us through or Facebook or instagram pages



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November 2025
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Publications 2025



Front Cover:
Paul Campbell with a
huge Grenvilles mirror



Temperatures have stayed pretty high through October. Only in the last day or 2 has it starting dipping below 10 degrees. There's been a raft of big fish coming out as they feed up ready for winter. Check out some of the best advice around in this months issue to maximise your chances as the water cools.

Have to say a big well done to our designer, James. He finally banked his first UK 40 and it was the first 40 from his syndicate, Carptonik in Newbury. James only fishes overnights and has had a tremendous season. He'll be giving you the full story in the January issue. It goes to show you can still be consistent with limited time.

So, just time to wish you all tight lines for November. Keep warm and dry and most of all do it safely.

8. SHOCKLEADER

News from around the fishing industry.

28. TAC-TEC

Our look at some of the best fishing products.

40. CATCH REPORTS

Check out some of the biggest carp to be caught recently.

66. CHARLIE WRIGHT

His mate Jonny Mac was looking down on him this day.

74. LIAM WOOLCOTT

Even on a small venue the wind can play a vital role for location.

80. LUKE STEVENSON

Runs through some of his best autumnal tips and tricks.

86. MARK BRYANT

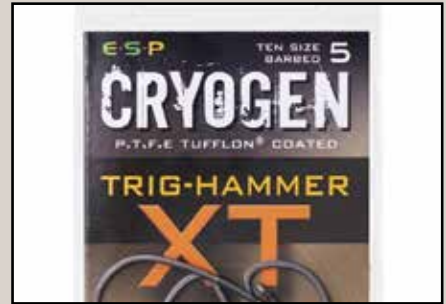
Talks about the use of boilies for the back end of the season.

92. PAUL CAMPBELL

A red letter session on the mighty Grenvilles.

110. PETER HUDSON

Takes a step back to revisit old approaches.



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John Paul McCusker reported that the fishing was tricky to say the least with the carp still wanting to spawn again. Nicked a few, though, all around 23-25 lb. Caught using size 4 Scorpion Ronnie Rigs and our composite Safety lead clip system due to weed and alot of snags" Well done John.



A mad night on Osprey for team member Lee Oxley. An 8lb, 17, 19, 20, 23, 23. After a busy night I left rods out at 2am together some much needed sleep." Carptackleonline end tackle used. Well done Lee.



Can that smile get any bigger? Team member Chevy Reid took his son Vaughan to @linearfisheriesofficial B2 over the weekend, which resulted in this magnificent 33lb 13oz mirror.

"I had just started to walk to the car when i heard Vaughan shouting dad, dad. I ran back, having not gone far, and watched him play the fish all the way in. On the scales, it went 33lb 13oz, his first 30, and a new PB." Terminal tackle used was all CTO products, including a size 4 Scorpion Wide Gape and CTO Pro hooklink. Well done, Vaughan! Congratulations on your PB.



Ben Flockton decide to tie up a number of different rigs made from our components to see which was the most effective. After feeding heavily he got the



carp feeding and ended up catching on all of the rigs. It was difficult to say which one was better!! Some days I guess it doesn't matter when they're feeding so heavily.

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Standard #8 Swivel



Micro Rig Swivel

Micro Bait Swivel

Swivels



Scorpion Choddy Crank



Scorpion Crank



Scorpion Wide Gape



Scorpion Ronnie Rigs



Composite Leadclip



Snag Hook



Aligners



Tungsten Aligners



Tungsten Putty



Shrink Tube



Hair Stops



Hook Beads



Swivel Deal

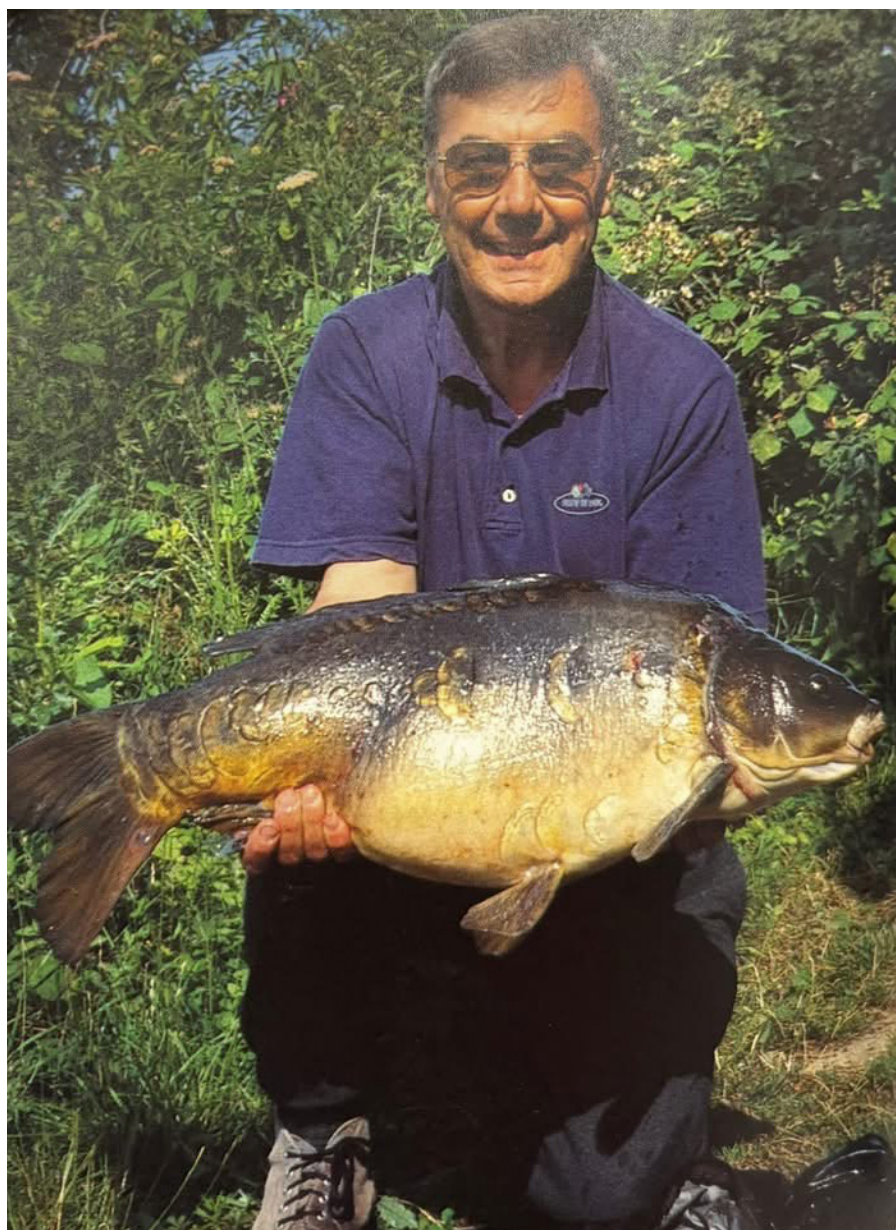


Tungsten Hooklink Sinkers



Chod Filament

SHOCKLEADER

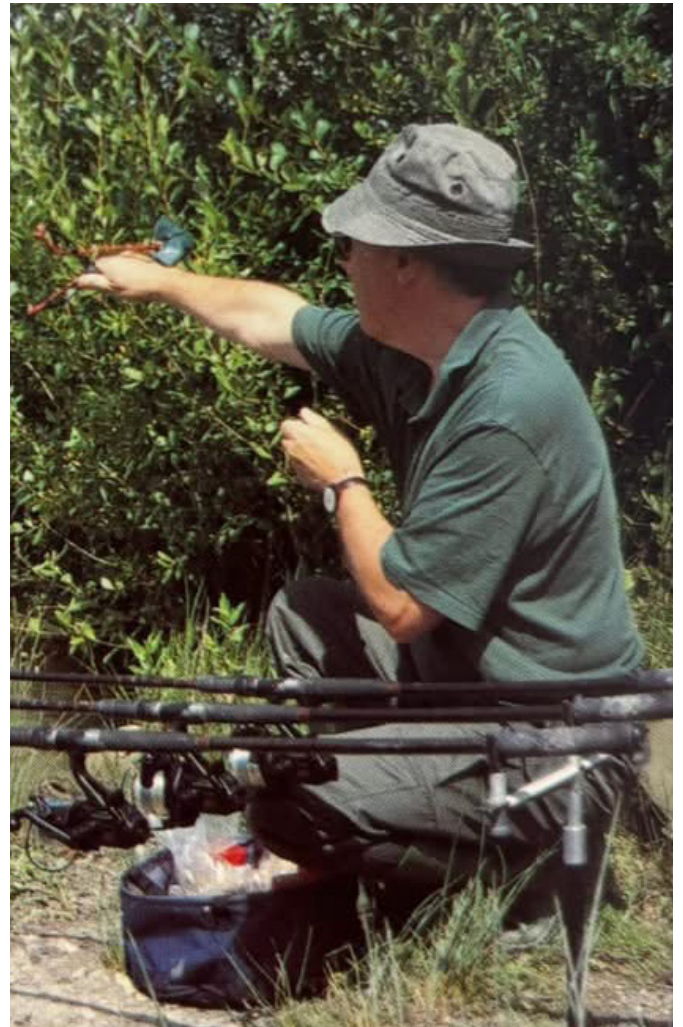
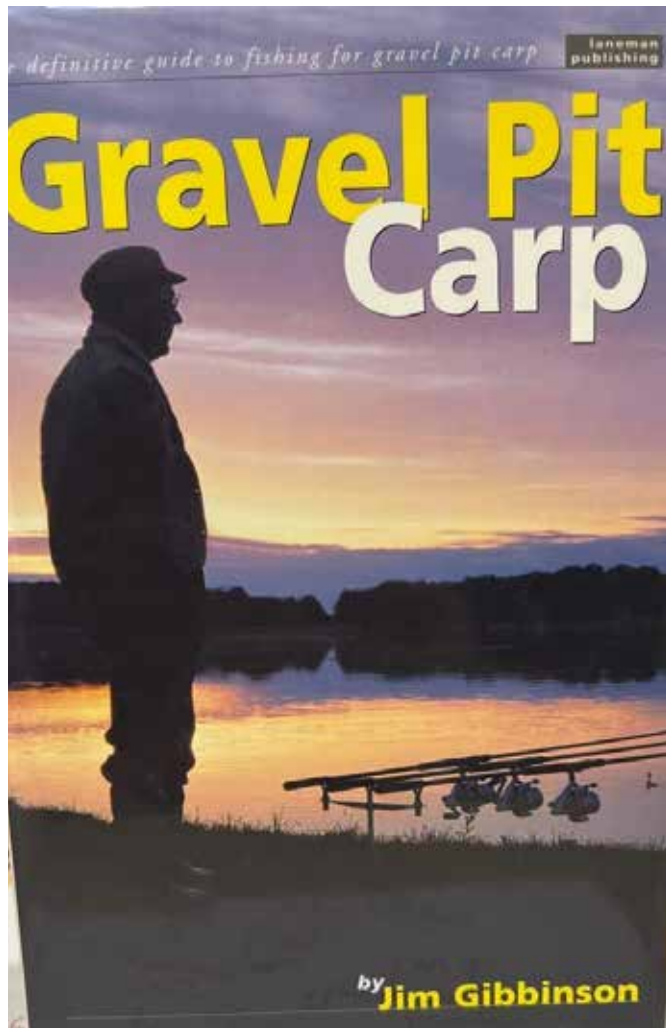


I was sad to hear today of the passing of one of carp fishing's elder statesmen, Jim Gibbinson.

In late 1967, I became a member of The South East Essex Specimen Group and Jim was their chairman. I got to know him a little and shared his company at his home near Rochford and on a lake at Boreham, Essex.

I had always enjoyed his writings,

RIP JIM GIBBINSON



particularly these articles he did for the now defunct monthly angling magazine, 'Angler's World'.

Have a read, they should make you smile, although they are very much of their time.

He was a very good writer and confident communicator; he will be sadly missed. My condolences to his family and friends.

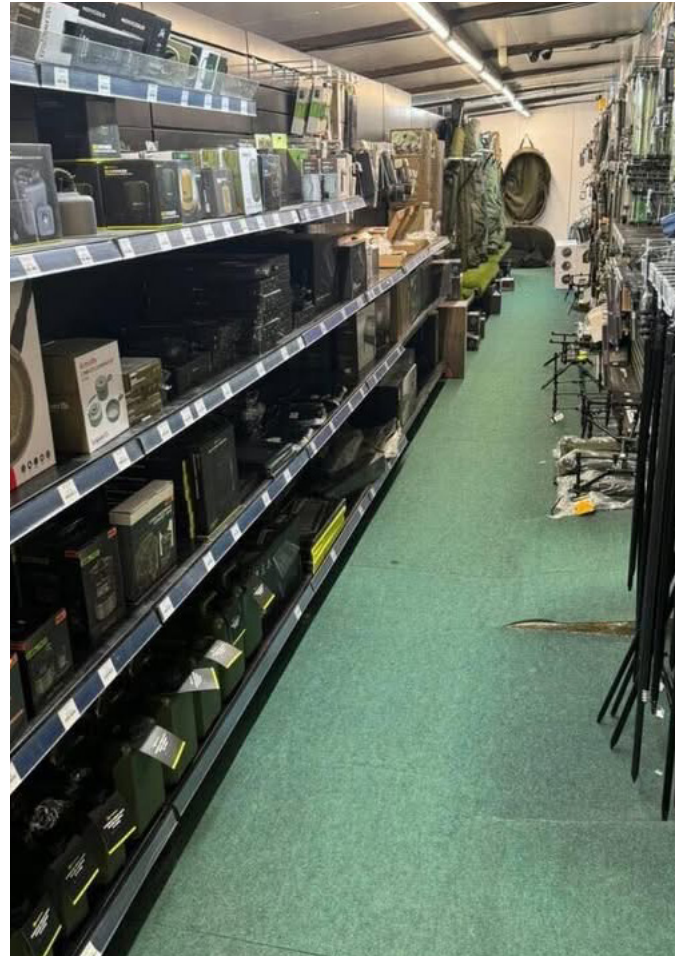
Dave Woods

KENT TACKLE UP FOR SALE



After 17+ years of owning businesses — but this is a and running the shop, I've fantastic opportunity for the decided it's time to pass it right person. The new owner on. This is a well-established can continue running the and profitable business with shop as it is and still enjoy a loyal customer base and a a healthy profit, or take it to strong local reputation. the next level with fresh ideas

I've simply lost the passion and energy.
for the retail side as my There's huge potential
focus has shifted to my other for growth, especially for



someone looking to expand the e-commerce side, which has only ever been lightly focused on. With a solid foundation, recognised brand, and loyal following, it's ready for someone to push the business even further.

Ideally, the buyer will be a keen angler who understands the trade and wants to build on what's already working well.

If the business doesn't sell,

I'll be appointing a full-time manager next year and continuing to run it as normal — so there's no rush, but I'd love to see it go to someone who can give it the attention it deserves.

Leasehold business – £270,000 (includes all stock, fixtures & fittings)

For more information or serious enquiries, please message the page or email: info@kenttackle.com

TEAM MEMBERS FOR SNAG TACKLE REQUIRED



SNAG  **TACKLE**

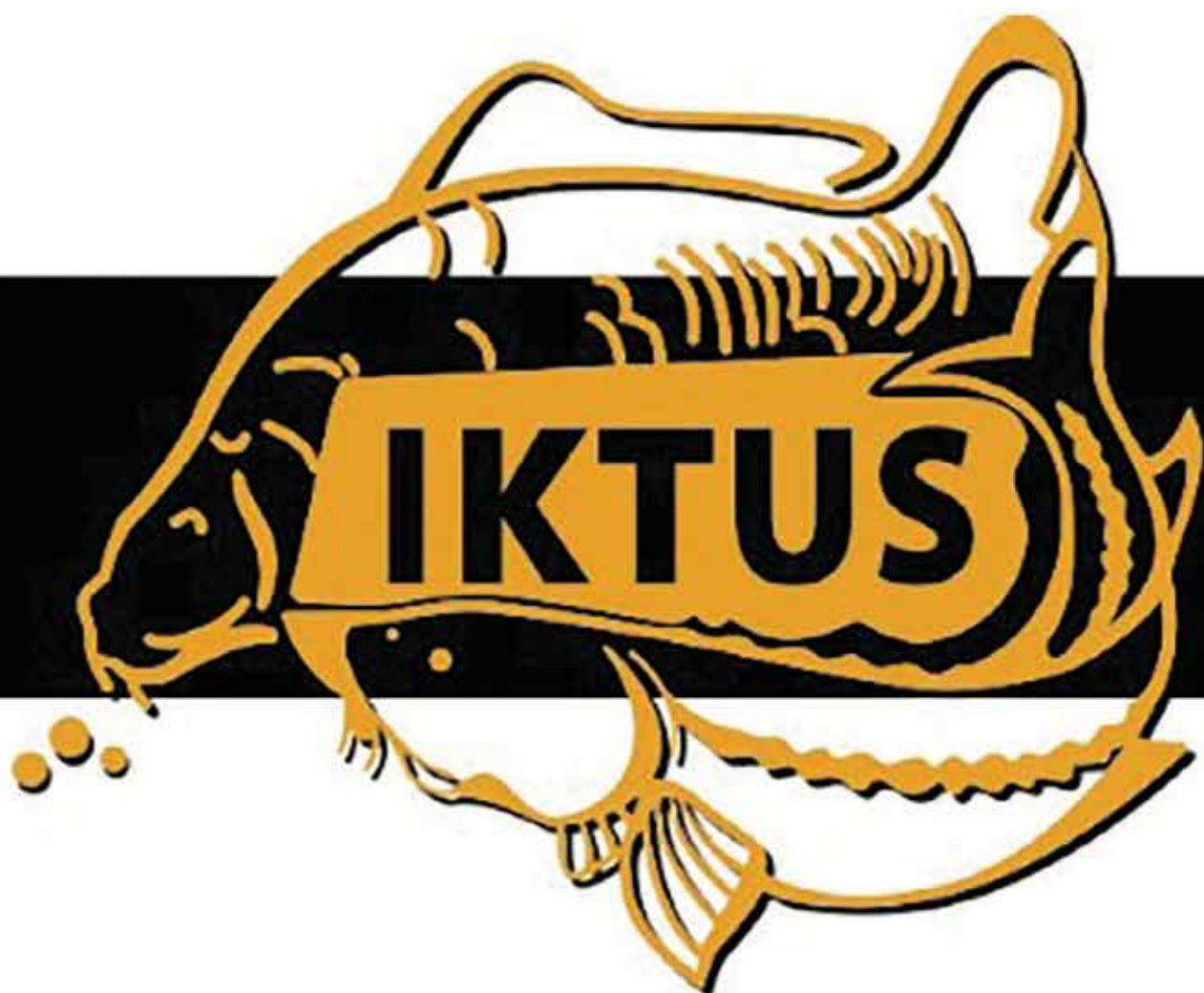
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Are you a keen angler that enjoys using our products? Take the next step in your angling and join a team focused on helping each other grow and improve.

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FISHABIL CHALLENGE 2025



FISHABIL CHALLENGE 2025

POS	TEAM	SWIM	CARP	CATFISH	STURGEON	TOTAL	TOTAL KG
1	PRO-ELITE BAITS	6	43	3		46	529.89
2	ET GIRONDIN	16	24	3		27	336.85
3	ALAN COUVERT	31	15	4		19	220.92
4	BANK TRAMPS	28	15	1		16	173.95
5	ADDICTIV BAITS	34	9		2	11	134.07
6	BURTURLEY	7		4		4	75.56
7	TIM PAUL	9	1	7		8	67.37
8	THE BLANKER	18	2	3		5	66.62
9	CASTING COUCH	17		2		2	40.44
10	NORTHERN BOYS	33	2			2	22.89
11	ESSEX BOYS	37		1		1	17.23

KATRAN SEEKS CONTENT CREATOR TO JOIN ITS TEAM



We're on the look out for a talented angler and media creator to join the Rig Locker team in 2026 to promote Katran products.

The position will be fully funded by me personally, so no discounts but you will receive an annual allowance. On top of your allowance, you

will be given all new and test products for free.

You'll need to be good at what you do, so high-quality media, both stills and video and be active on the bank for no less than 10 months a year.

I'll be personally looking after you in the main part but you will be very much part of an excellent team. If you are interested then please email theriglocker@gmail.com

Subject - Media team member application.

Some demonstrations of your camera skills and angling skills are essential in the application.

Worth noting is, you'll need to fit as a person as well as a media creator and angler. The team is a very tight one and we won't risk upsetting that.

MORTIMER AND WHITEHOUSE TAKE ON THE EBRO CARP



Don't miss Mortimer & Whitehouse: Gone Fishing this Christmas Eve on the BBC. Bob and Paul head to sunny Cahors in France, fishing for Mediterranean bass and huge carp while reflecting on the past year and what's ahead. With an old chateau, a vineyard, and a surprise-awards ceremony, it's a perfect way to end the day.

EA AND AT BAILIFFS ON PATROL



Angling trust Voluntary love knowing their waters are Bailiffs give up their free being looked after, and many time to help the work of anglers are both surprised our Fisheries Enforcement and pleased to see our teams Support Service, supporting walking the banks to prevent the Environment Agency's issues that affect clubs and Fisheries Enforcement Officers anglers.

and rural police teams in their You can always help out by duties. reporting anything suspicious

Patrols across Cheshire have to the EA 24-hour hotline on been taking place covering the 0800 80 70 60.

river Weaver and Trent, along Our enforcement work is funded with the Mersey canal and a by fishing licence income and number of angling club still delivered in partnership with waters. Clubs and fisheries the Environment Agency.

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF ANGLERS PARADISE



What a great weekend it was... Paradise!
literally Fun...Fishing and It was lovely to have special
Friends! The party went down friends attend in the likes of
a storm, our Chef Paul Casey Mark and Judith Pitchers,
did a great job with the food, Dean Macey, Daryl Hodges and
Emma Knight did us proud Ian Jones from Dynamite, the
with her live performance of GoCatch Team, Bob Roberts &
beautiful acoustic music Sue, Bill and Virginia Rushmer
to start the night, great live and of course all our amazing
music in the bar and then one guests that joined us for the
hell of a disco!! party of the year!!
People danced, got merry and Thank you to all that joined
most importantly enjoyed us in making it a weekend to
celebrating 40 years of Anglers remember..



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RESULTS OF THE 25th WORLD CARP ANGLING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2025 CROATIA



KEV Hewitt reported in saying, "It was never going to be easy. We saw the lake for the very first time 4 hours before the match started. We entered our pegs with a plan, it evolved. All three swims were very different and required a totally different tactic and skill set. Some things worked, some

didn't, we figured it out as we went along, we read the situation in every peg, we adapted, that's what we do, that is our strength.

We would like to thank everyone for their support and following. We hope we done our nation proud.

We didn't win, well done Moldova.

2nd place is not winning but it is progression.

We will fight again next year in Macedonia where we will give everything to deliver Gold for our country. We rise as one, we fall as one.

We are CARP Team England"



THE METROPOLITAN POLICE ANGLING SOCIETY (MPAS)

Is a welcoming community of serving and retired officers and all blue light employees who share a passion for fishing. Whether you're a seasoned angler or a complete beginner, we offer the perfect opportunity to relax, unwind, and enjoy time on the bank with like-minded colleagues.

We have access to lakes across the MPS



JOIN NOW

New Members Welcome!

We're currently looking to grow our membership and would love to hear from you. Whether it's coarse, carp, Match, or fly fishing – there's something for everyone. We are always looking for new members please email the membership secretary for more enquiries - MPASMEMBERSHIP@GMAIL.COM



- 1 Stress relief**
 Anglers tell us that being on the water away from the stresses of your everyday life is a great way to relax. Fishing has even been used as a form of therapy for PTSD through organisations like Project Healing Waters and Veterans Wonders.
- 2 Active lifestyle**
 That's right - fishing can improve your overall health. Casting lines and reeling fish can add up to great exercise. Plus, fishing often involves other activities like hiking, wading, or paddling which are all great for your body.
- 3 Being outdoors**
 Studies have shown that simply being outdoors can do wonders for your health. In fact, being outside for just 10 minutes a day can improve your overall mood and energy levels.



An evening with
Dave Levy
Professional Angler & Angling Consultant

Presented by:



**Cottington
Lakes**



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ORBIT BAIT'S TEAM MEMBERS REQUIRED

Here at Orbit Baits, we're constantly being contacted by passionate anglers looking to join our growing team of field testers.

As a small, innovative bait company that prides itself on crafting premium, high-performance products, we don't have the massive marketing budgets of the big names — instead, we rely on real anglers who live and breathe carp fishing to help us spread the word and represent Orbit Baits to the highest standard.

We're now on the lookout for fresh talent — anglers who share our passion, dedication, and drive to keep pushing boundaries.

Here's what we're looking for: Strong experience in the UK carp scene.

- Actively fishing and producing consistent

results.

- Able to capture high-quality images of catches and products.
- Confident and active on social media,
- Professional, respectful, and passionate about promoting quality bait.

If that sounds like you and you'd like to join the Orbit baits team then drop us a message on face book with:

- A bit about yourself and your fishing background.
- The waters you fish and how often you're out.
- A few recent catch shots.
- We'll review every message carefully and get back to those who stand out.

Explore our full range of baits here:

www.orbitbaits.co.uk

We don't just roll bait — we engineer it.

JOIN THE ORBIT TEAM



Casters, pellets, and worms make an excellent combo when targeting carp during the autumn/winter months. That is why we are now offering casters and pellets here at Bilsdale to perfectly complement your worms, and make sure you have everything you need in one place for your weekend fishing trip. Give us a call to arrange bait collection or to add casters and pellets to your online order.

- Casters (sold in pint measures)
- Carp Pellets – Available in 2mm, 3mm, 6mm, and 7mm, Pack sizes: 1kg, 2.5kg, and 5kg
- Boilies – Available in two flavours

www.blisdale-worms.co.uk
01642 712136





Attention - parents of SEN teenagers. Underdog Crew, Nature immersion has just been honoured with the 'BBC Make A Difference Awards' in the Community Champion category.

FROM NEXT SPRING, selected groups of sixteen SEN (Special Educational Needs) teenagers will be given the chance to reset, reconnect and rebuild confidence during the #ucscarpCamp - a fully-catered, two-night residential escape at a stunning Essex VENUE TBC with log cabin accommodation, serious cool factor and the chance to catch

HUGE 30lb+ carp!

Digital detox

Empowerment workshops

Certified angling tutors

Special guests

Team-building & creativity

Fishing competition – the biggest carp wins the title

Weekend camps cost £150 per child (14+).

** Families who cannot afford these breaks can apply for sponsored bursaries!

For more information please visit: <https://www.underdogcrew.org/carp-camp-retreat>

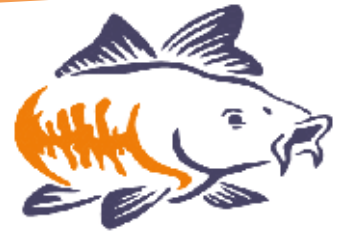
BIG NEWS FOR ALL CARP ANGLERS!

THE MOMENT YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR IS FINALLY HERE!
WE ARE THRILLED TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE WINTER CARP
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Fishing Show
Winter Carp
2025



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WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT AT THE WINTER CARP SHOW 2025?

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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

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EXPERT TALKS & SHOWS:

Dive deep into the world of fishing with expert talks and captivating shows from the best carp anglers in the business.



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For general enquires **07793 404006**

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 2025 an unforgettable angling adventure!

UP THE CARP TACK

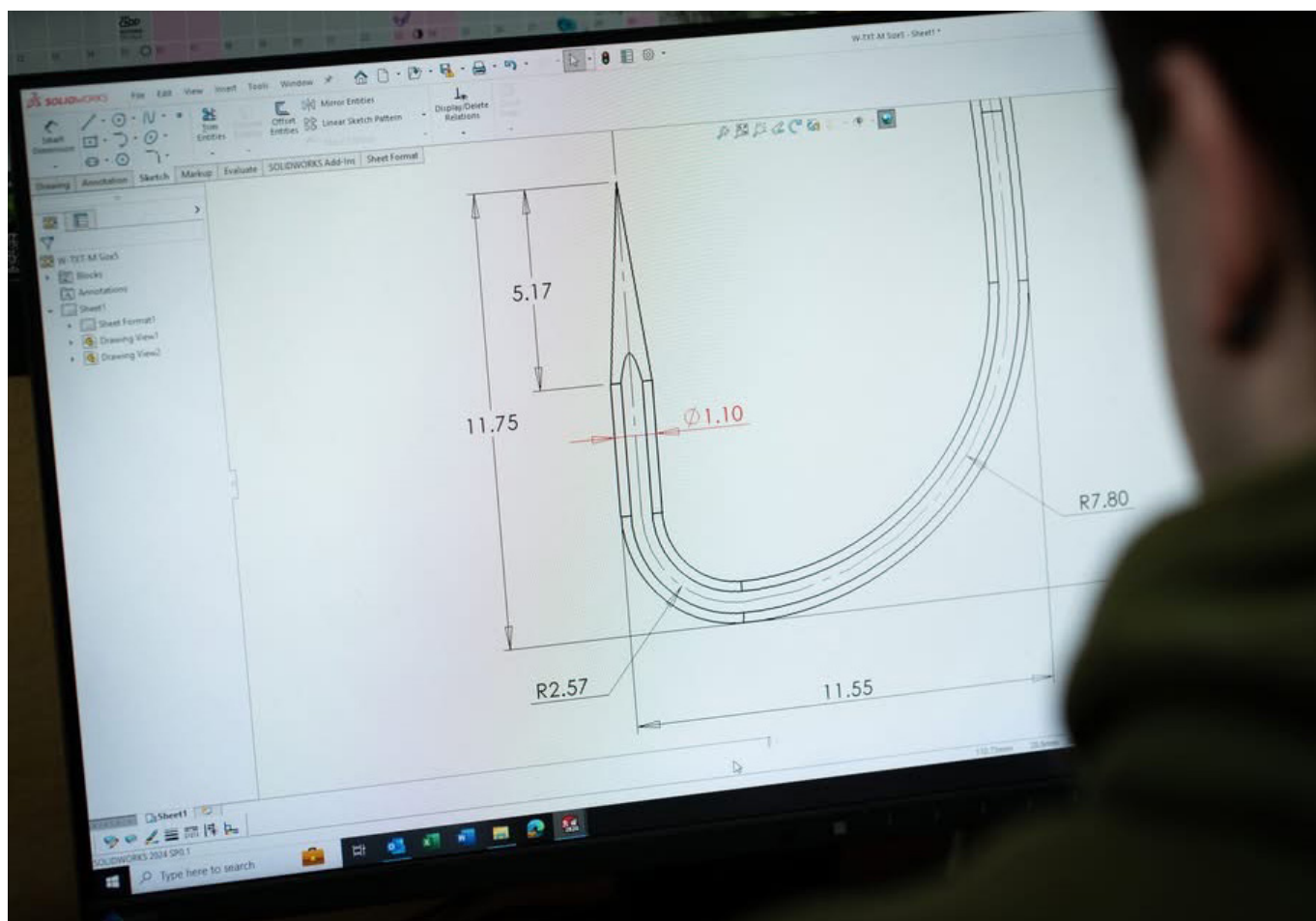
ESP TRIG HAMMER XT HOOKS

Level Up Your Hook Game with the ESP Trig Hammer XT! Built for anglers who don't compromise, the Trig Hammer XT hooks deliver next-level strength, retaining the sharpness of the original, giving reliability on every take.

- Extra-tough long shank design
- Ultra-sharp needle points for solid hook holds
- Heavy-gauge wire with twin-tempered forging for max strength
- Aggressive shape and in-turned eye for perfect alignment

Perfect for Ronnie rigs, spinner rigs, and bottom bait setups—especially when you're targeting big carp or fishing demanding conditions.

- www.esp-carpgear.com
- RRP: £4.95



EVOLVE TACKLE HELI-BEAD SYSTEM



The Evolve Leader Heli Bead System is for use with helicopter and chod rigs on leaders. For use with leadcore and similar diameter leaders
 Three bead release fittings, so bead release can be tuned to the size of weight being used and angling situation
 Long tapered base for smooth flow of the swivel over the sleeve
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 Sleeves moulded in the Evolve translucent 'dark camo' colour for enhanced rig concealment
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a.Luminova b.Chromalight c.Tritium

Email your answer to info@bigcarpmagazine.co.uk or Text to 07768 731425 or Social Media - Answer in comments.

One lucky winner will be selected at random. Competition closes Dec 1st '25 & winner will receive watch before Christmas.

Tried, tested and guaranteed, NITE Watches are made with quality Swiss-made components, super bright tritium illumination and most importantly are designed to be worn doing what you love.
Tight Lines !



SWISS-MADE
MOVEMENT



TRITIUM
ILLUMINATION



SAPPHIRE
CRYSTAL



5 YEAR
WARRANTY

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MILITARY AND ADVENTURE WATCH BUYING GUIDE: HOW TO CHOOSE YOUR PERFECT TIMEPIECE

HOW TO CHOOSE YOUR MILITARY OR ADVENTURE WATCH: 4-STEP SELECTION FRAMEWORK

Choosing the right military or adventure watch depends on four critical factors: your operational environment, required durability level, power preferences, and budget range. Whether you're military personnel, emergency services, or serious outdoor enthusiasts, this framework ensures you select a timepiece that won't fail when it matters most.

Step 1: Define Your Environment - Arctic, desert, maritime, or jungle conditions each demand different specifications. Water resistance needs range from 100m (general use) to 300m (professional diving).

Step 2: Assess Durability Requirements - Combat operations need maximum shock resistance, whilst adventure activities may prioritise weight savings with advanced materials like reinforced polycarbonate.

Step 3: Choose Your Power Source - Swiss quartz offers extreme accuracy with long battery life, whilst automatic movements eliminate battery dependency for extended deployments.

Step 4: Match Features to Mission - Covert operations benefit from subtle illumination, emergency response requires maximum visibility, and professional diving demands ceramic bezels and 300m+ ratings, genuine military specification watches with advanced tritium technology at fair pricing.

WHAT SEPARATES REAL MILITARY WATCHES FROM FASHION COPIES

A genuine military or adventure watch isn't about camouflage patterns or aggressive styling. It's about engineering that functions when everything else fails. Since 2003, Nite Watches has built timepieces meeting the standards required by professionals who can't afford equipment failure.

The MX10 field watch demonstrates authentic military credentials. This watch was supplied to UK Special Forces, including the SAS. Not for marketing purposes, but because it performed when other equipment didn't. That's the fundamental difference between watches with military styling and those actually built for operational use.



Real military and adventure watches must demonstrate specific capabilities: shock resistance surviving weapons discharge, magnetic field immunity near electronic equipment, temperature tolerance from Arctic to desert extremes, and accuracy under conditions that would stop civilian timepieces. NITE Watches recognised early that consistent visibility in low-light conditions could determine mission success or failure.

When equipment failure means operational compromise or personal danger, specifications become requirements rather than features. Testing protocols ensure reliable function throughout service life without letting users down when timing matters most.

ADVANCED ILLUMINATION: BEYOND STANDARD GLOW PAINT

Professional illumination represents fundamental understanding of military operational requirements. NITE's tritium illumination technology provides constant

visibility exceeding 20 years without depending on external light sources. Essential for extended underground operations, maritime missions, or Arctic conditions where conventional systems fail completely.

Safety standards meet stringent military requirements, with systems contained within hermetically sealed tubes presenting no health risks during extended wear. Military equipment follows strict regulations ensuring personnel safety whilst maximising operational effectiveness.

NITE offers different illumination intensities providing tactical flexibility based on actual operational requirements. Subtle illumination works for covert operations where bright visibility might compromise position security. Maximum brightness suits emergency response or situations requiring instant time reading in complete darkness.



Colour options serve functional rather than aesthetic purposes. Green provides 100% brightness to human perception, orange delivers 50% brightness, and blue variants serve specific applications. Orange markers often identify 12 o'clock positions for rapid orientation. This colour-coding assists military personnel with quick time reading under stress conditions.

Unlike battery-powered systems degrading in cold conditions, tritium illumination maintains constant function regardless of temperature extremes encountered in operational environments.

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE >](#)



THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A FISHING WATCH
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HAWK NIGHT FALL

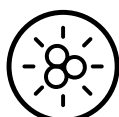


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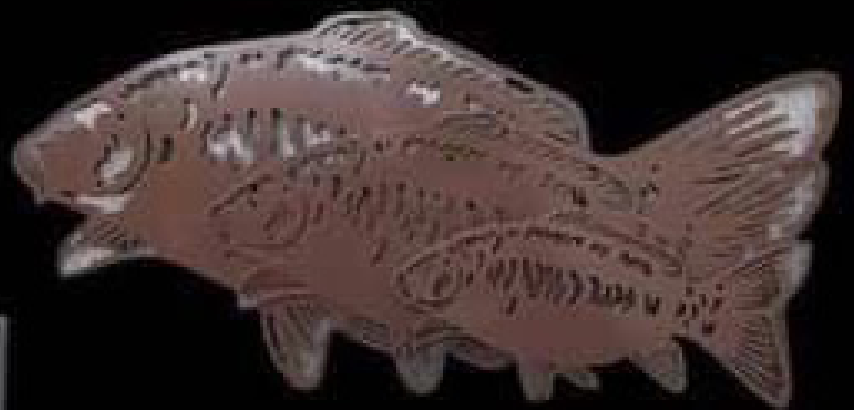
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CAPITAL CARP



Kayla Viviana with one of London's best carp at 49lb, what a carp.

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HAULING



Liam Morgan had a crazy trip. Had 17 bites landing 16 with a chunky 44lb mirror, the Snake at 42lb and 5 30s with Paw Print at 34.4lb!



WELLY HAUL





Jason Massay has been on FIRE this month! here's just a FEW highlights from his latest sessions: The Big Common at 51lb... TWICE! The Pretty Mirror at 53lb The Pretty Sutton at 49lb Loads of "Back Up" 30s & 40s

LIKE BUSSES



Session of a lifetime,
2 50lb Commons in 2
1/2hrs for Neil Lloyd



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THE N.M.E.

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CATCH REPORTS

James Geary was over the moon with his 25th UK 40 at 42lb 4oz.

**TOP
GEAR**



**COOKING
CRACKER**



Paul Moss banked the Asylum Mirror at 49lb +

LIVINGSTONE I PRESUME



Craig Livingstone with
a stunning 45.8

CATCH REPORTS

Mark Kerridge with Horton Churches' Scar at 49.08 and a new PB.

SCARRED FOR LIFE



YOU'RE NICKED



Nick Maher with a cracking 47.12 lbs

Mark Bagshaw, a recapture but still mega at 46.4, The Grand.

MARK BAGS A GRAND



SLIPPERY SLOPE



Calum Pawsey with a seriously cool old 40lber! Big sloping head, chestnut flanks, gnarly and scarred.

'TONIK'S FIRST FORTY



James Harrison banked Carptonik's first 40lb carp. The Big Simmo weighed in at 40lb 10oz, after taking a liking to James' double DNA SLK hook bait

Oak Lakes Fisheries

www.oaklakesfisheries.co.uk



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



Dean and Amanda had an amazing session a few weeks ago. Fishing swim 12, The Long Finger they caught an incredible 32 fish in 60 hours up to 19lb.

Oak Lakes Fisheries

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



17lb 6oz



15lb 10oz



19lb 4oz



**31lb caught 11pm
Saturday on swim 21
(platform 1) Great
catch and another fine
one from this swim**



**Zak Hutchings on Oak
Lake - lovely fish**



35lb 15oz



**35lb 4oz Long Common
and 23lb and 15lb nice
fishing Beansie**



**Lee England's recent
session on Pipe lake**

**35lb 15oz for Gary
Pearman who blanked
over the weekend in
the charity match but
back to catching again
now even without any
boilies**



Nice one Jim 21 lb

Oak Lakes Fisheries

www.oaklakesfisheries.co.uk



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



More catches for Gary Pearman using his favourite A M Baits.



You couldn't make it up - same carp caught 15 minutes later!!!.



More weekend catches this time from swim 20 The Bay - a 22lb 3oz and an 18lb 3oz.



He'd just woken up 28lb - another stunning common



New PB alert for Graeme Edgar 27lb on the nose.



One of his first ever grass carp



31 lb 8 oz The Big Ghosty - great catch



33lb 4oz

WELSH RECORD CARP BOYO



Peter Rees caught the Welsh record carp from Llyn Cae Tŷ Nant Fishery, a stunning mirror carp named Colls at a whopping 49lb 15oz.

The Box Common
from Christchurch
Finally slipped up to
Jay Fleetwood at 46+

MISSING LINCH



VADER CAPTURED



Season maker for Martin Lawrence in the shape of this
mega 40-8 St Ives Meadow/Fjords mirror known as Vader!

SOUTHERN SUCCESS

Andy South with
PAM at 52.2 and a
new pb



Alex Bransby said "Over 45lbs, ornamental appearance, there was no second guessing to which fish it was!"

SPOOKY



LINEAR LUMP

Adam Grant
banked this
chunky mirror
at over 40lbs
recently from
Linear Fisheries
Official



Rob Marsh said
"Crazy day today
very wet but loved
every minute of
it! This one went
40lb 8oz"

WET DAY WET NET



FULL MOON MONSTER



Believe the theory or not, it certainly paid off for Bob Milne with one of Yorkshire's finest. This being one that Bob has been chasing for over 3 years. All 54lb 02oz of it!

FOR SALE



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- 80 acres with 4 lakes of 12, 2 x 6 and 4 acres in unspoilt countryside.
- Approx 650 fish to 95lb, inc 20 x 50lb's, 8 x 60lb's 2 x 70lb+
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A rare opportunity to acquire a top tier French carp fishing venue. The stock alone is worth in excess of 500,000 euros. The site is beautiful and unspoilt and provides a tranquil and unique experience to the visiting angler. Significant bookings already in place this year. Additional information, please email **ONLY** if genuinely interested info@brittanyforestlakes.co.uk

www.brittanyforestlakes.co.uk

SANDY BRACE



How about this for a morning brace! Steve Bathers has recently experienced a 'red letter' session on Sandhurst with this awesome 40.10lb mirror, backed up with a stunning 32.7lb.



LEE'S LUNKER



Lee Randall, 51lb 10oz BUZZING!!

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BYRNE'S NIGHT SUCCESS



Will Byrne with Lucy' at a record weight of 45lb 14oz,

RAKING IT IN



Kev Hewitt said "Raking a spot at close quarters certainly paid , resulting in the lakes biggest common at 46lbs+".



...After banking the big common, my open water rod ripped off, resulting in this magnificent creature aptly named 'The Carving' at 48lbs+

LODGE LUMP

Scott Cowling
with a 42lb Mirror
from Lodge Lakes



COMPLEX RECORD



Ian Craigie recently fished at his syndicate lake, banking a new PB and complex record common at 48lb 12oz!

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CHARLIE WRIGHT

THIS ONE'S FOR YOU JON

After a pretty shocking changes, which has some season something had to how now completely turned change for the better! my season around!

Weeks and weeks of head After last weeks repeat of a scratching all came to a halt 46.11 mirror and a 34lber the a few weeks ago after I'd week before I was absolutely made a few small tactical itching to get back in the

zone, a little disappointed with it being a repeat but I knew the spot was rocking and I had nothing else on my mind other than getting back!

A week of night shift work meant I wasn't looking to get to the lake until well into the early hours of Saturday morning which just wasn't going to cut it!! So a few strings were pulled and I managed to get Daniel Purewal to cover my Friday night shift, getting down the lake at 03:35 Friday morning instead I managed to get the plot and thankfully I did!

Saturday evening/ night was spent chewing the fat and celebrating the life of our mate Jonny Mac, many drinks were consumed and numerous story's shared.

The next morning was very quiet across the whole lake not much activity anywhere which is often the case on white, a big rain storm was due to hit at 13:00 so I told

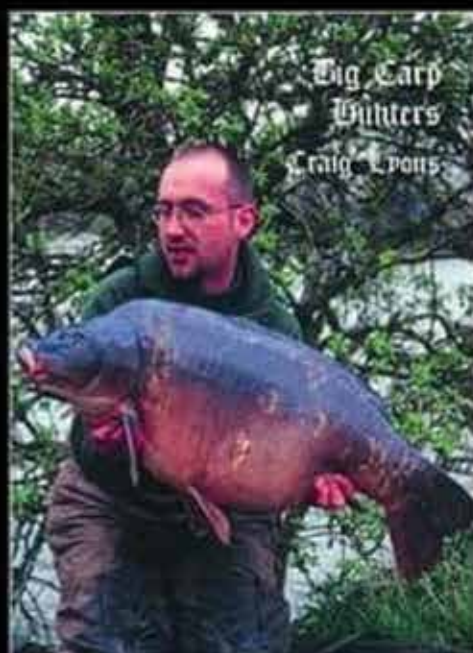
myself I best be packed up and outa here by 12:50 sharp!

Pretty down in the dumps and feeling sorry for myself I looked up at the sky and said out loud "come on Jon please my ole mate give us a whacker will ya boii"

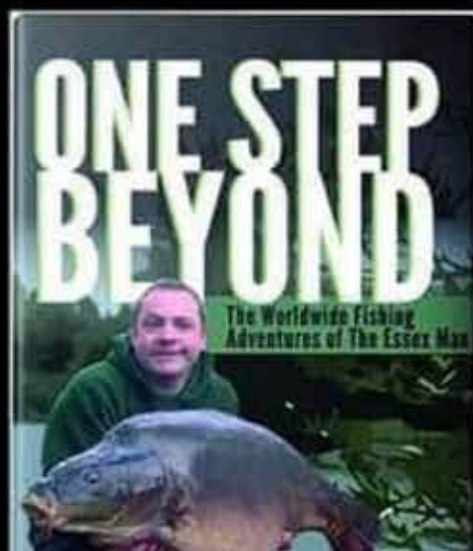
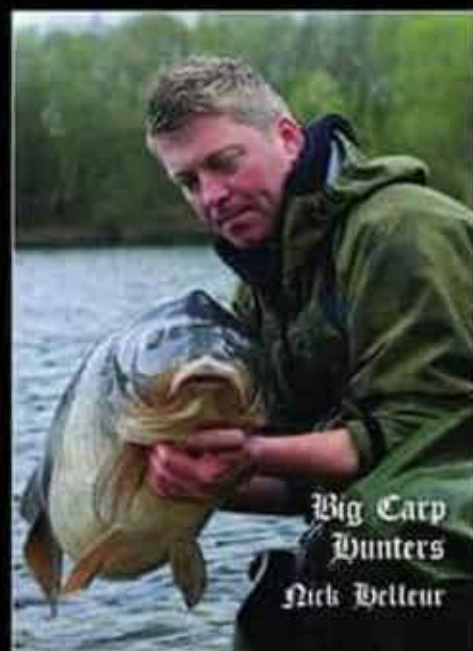
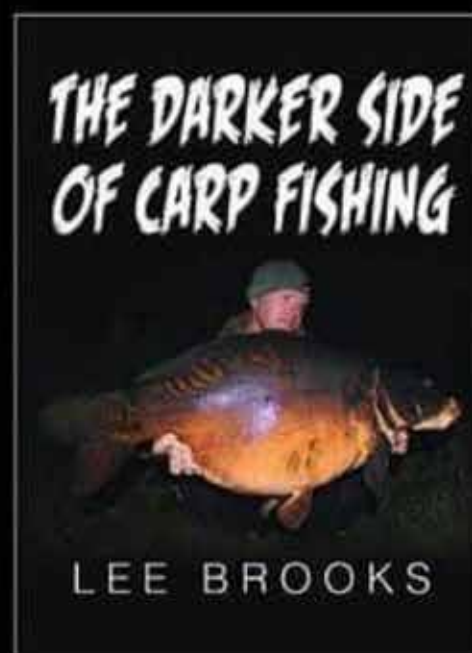
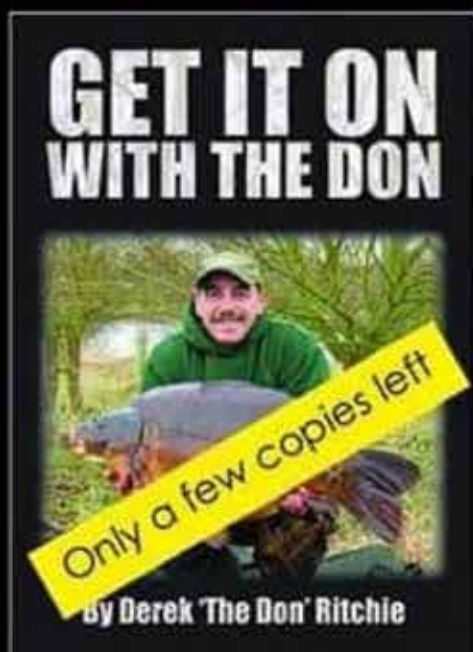
No more than 15 mins later at 12:30 the left hand rod burst into what can only be described as the most VIOLENT AND SAVAGE take I think iv ever endured! I lifted the rod and the fish just didn't stop! Ripping braid from the clutch at a pace I can't even describe my first thought was this must be fowl hooked in the tail, little did I know a battle was about to commence that I shall never forget! The power of this fish was honestly something else, but eventually after what seemed like an eternity I landed her. The Sandford common at 47lb 14oz!

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PB. it's also a fish I lost my first year at the net! So to get my revenge 7 years down the line made it even sweeter. I'm dedicating this capture to my mate Jonny Mac. I know you were looking down on me that morning brother and I thank you dearly my man, I also want to thank all the lads for the help and snaps you know who you are.

Absolutely devastated to find out the news this morning

me ole mukka Jon has sadly passed on, we shared some epic times together brother and iv memory's itched into my brain forever, going to miss your Jaffa motivation keeping me sane and strong, that infectious laugh that would always brighten up any mood gona miss you bro, make sure ya save us a peg up there in the sky Big Mac, until we meet again dude.





LIAM WOOLCOTT

WIND OF CHANGE

Back at the beginning of summer, I arrived at a lovely small day ticket venue known for its premium character. Nestled within some of the finest natural scenery, with high banks of flora and waters teeming with perfect weeds, this venue offers some of us locals a stunning opportunity to add some mint carp to our ever-important photo albums. The lake is just under three acres, with most of it having open water. There's a small island but nestled behind that is a small bay with a few snags and reed-lined banks. Upon entering the venue, you're greeted by a small bay

on your right, and winding pathways but I left the barrow loaded for the planned 24 hours behind, as I decided to take a lap. Starting at the bay, there wasn't much to go on: a gentle ripple from the main body of water, but nothing to facilitate setting up.

As I walked further, I came across a large swim with an island to my right and the main body of water in front. Remembering that this is a small, intimate water, I knew lack of sound and quietness would help me find them. I noticed a few bubblers in the deeper water in front, so I set up there. The idea of being in open water on bubblers and being able to see the whole lake, except for the small bay behind, gave me the opportunity to cast to fish. After about three hours, I could hear fish crashing out off the water to my left, so I quickly packed up and moved on.

At this point, four or five hours had passed, and a fish had seemed to move off. The winds picked up, actually to be honest it became quite gusty, pumping waves of water into the small bay behind. I went to look and noticed that the only way for the wind to get in was if it blew past the island down the channel.

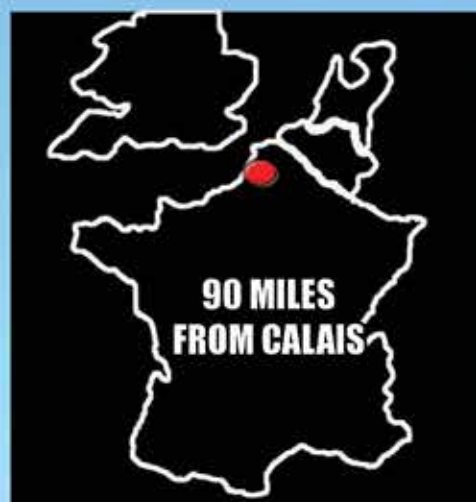
As I went around there, I saw many shows out nearby all over the overhanging snags, indicating that carp were here. As a natural carp fisherman in an untimely mess, I packed up, threw everything on the barrow, and headed for the first swim of the lake.

Once arrived looking up, I saw a big set of snags with a pattern of one boshing after another. This was it for me.

After watching the fish show relentlessly off the snag, I knew I had to get the marker rod out. I carefully and quietly found the distance and spot,

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snags. Once I was happy with the spot, I loaded up my rods using the ever-faithful naked lead clip and combi rig. The rig consisted of:

Thinking Anglers lead clips, tail rubbers, Think Link and Duo Fleck combo with a size 4 curve, and a small kicker to get that gape. This rig is one of three I use.

The hook bait choice was Sticky Baits Manilla Active

Manilla freebies. I bated up with a pouch at a time to get the first bite on each rod, allowing me to see the response and feeding results. So, I was set. The action didn't take long. After about 15 minutes, the right-hand rod buzzer toned in. The bobbin was pinned against the blank! Picking up the rod, I had to focus on walking back to get the fish away from the snags,



which worked well.

After a decent battle, the first fish was in the net. With the area still active and fish still showing, I knew I had to get the rod back out.

The time was eventful. I caught 15 fish, the wind howling into this little bay, and my alarms were busy. It was

a red letter day. The last fish was a mint 30 common, which was a cherry on the cake. After early hours of the morning, the wind changed direction away from the area, and the fish drifted off. So, when I woke up, all I could hear was the dawn chorus and nature doing what it does best.



LUKE STEVENSON

LATE SEASON TIPS

‘Top tips for autumn? First one is to work out where they’re feeding, watch at dawn and dusk for bubbles or shows and listen through the night for rolling fish. Focus on areas that might’ve been left alone all summer, deeper channels, gullies and clean areas against banks of weed. I caught the biggun from pit 8 on the end of a new wind that was pumping into the far corner. There was a big old raft of weed at around 50 yards and just short of it, was a lovely clear strip of deeper silty water. Spreading boilies all over this strip with the catapult and then staggering hinges across the channel, just short of the weed produced the biggun.

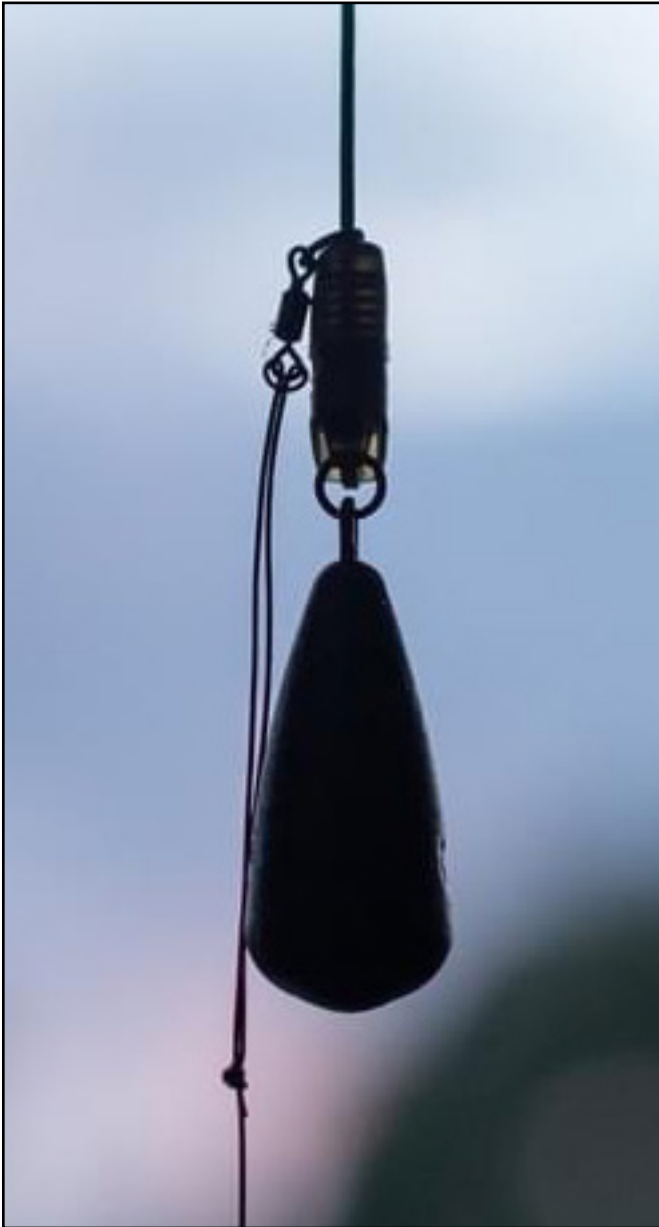
In regard to rigs, I keep it



simple, using tried and trusted rigs I've used for years, predominantly hinges set up using long N Trap booms which I tie a large loop at one end, so I can loop to loop to the swivel, with the doubled up section acting as an anti-tangle sleeve. An albreight knot to the hook end, with

25lb MouthTrap to a Kamakura Choddy. With leaf litter and other debris at this time of year, I know I'm always going to be presented.

Baiting wise, I favour match the hatch all year, more so in autumn as those pressured bigguns can easily spook off a bright one. I've been



soaking my Krill pop-ups in White Squid Goo for the last few autumns, giving them a more washed out look, full of flavour.

Keeping an open mind with bait and trying to be different is always going to set you apart from others. Go on the side of caution with quantities, but

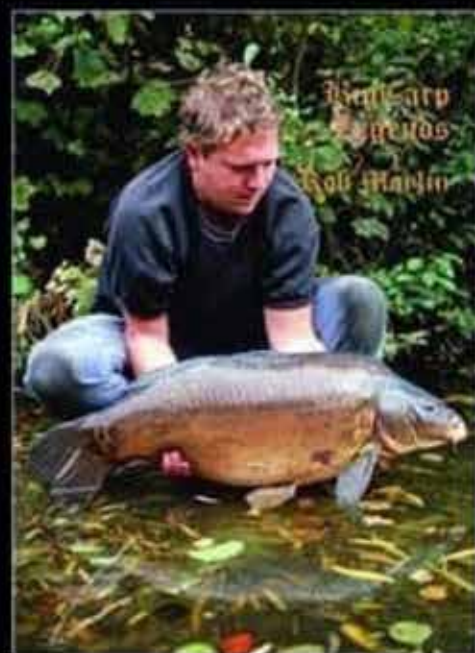
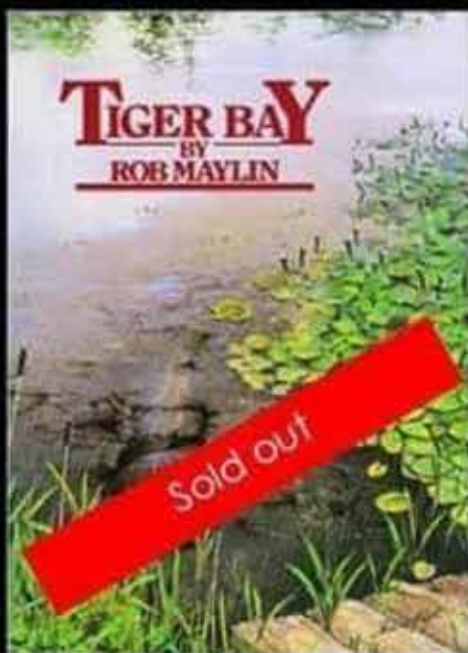
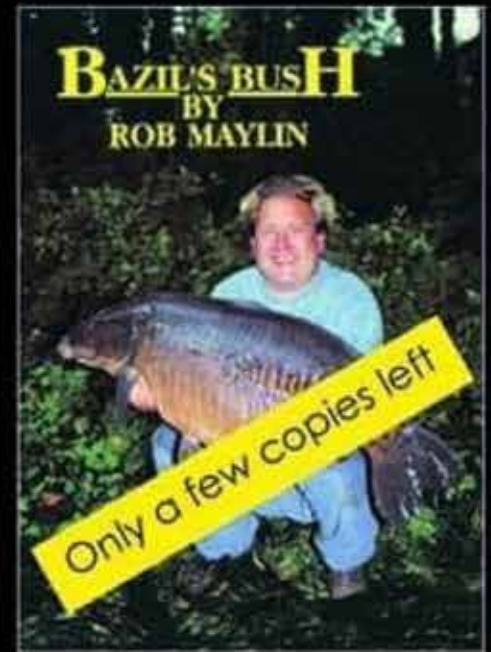
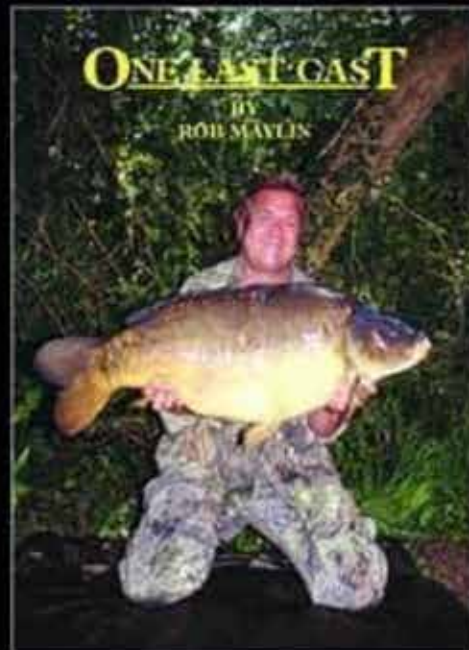
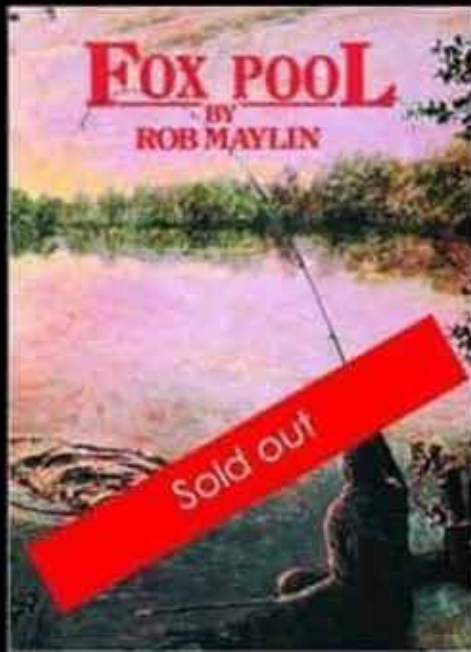
remember, they'll be eating so if you can, keep applying it to the areas they want to be in, little and often, and you can reap the rewards.

Lastly, I'll always ensure to have plenty of spares in the van, a selection of baits, tackle bits and a dry bag for spare warm clothes'.



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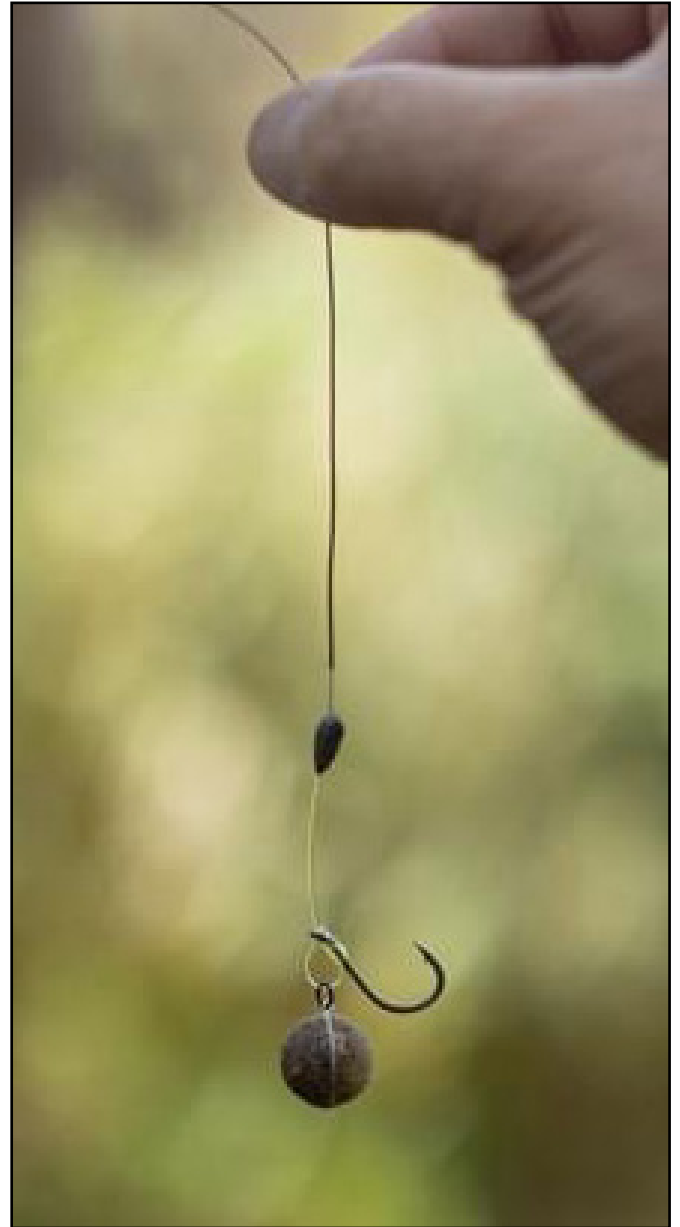


MARK BRYANT

BOILIES IN AUTUMN

I try to think outside the box when it comes to autumn baiting. Not applying loads until I know it's right, rather try and fish for bites and build areas. Scaling down to 12 millers, or fishing with chops and crumb to be different from others.

Mark Bryant – Boilies play a large part in my late summer and autumn fishing, particularly after spawning, when the fish need to replenish their losses, so I'd favour giving them a high quality food source, and boilies tick that box.



Oscar Thornton – I've done really well in recent autumns fishing with boilie. On Rockford, a really tricky big pit, I kept the Cell going in each week and the bites kept coming. When fishing for real bigguns, when they get on the bait, they really do get through it, so I was

giving them a bucket each week, fishing hinges over the top, and it was the best autumn's fishing I've had.

Barry Delderfield – I'm an avid user of boilie all year round, meaning I can get the bait out much quieter than the need to spomb. I like to prep areas, little and often

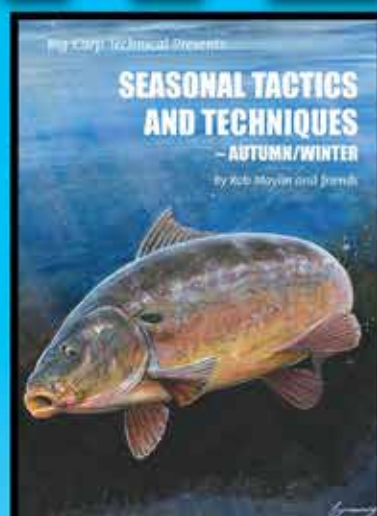
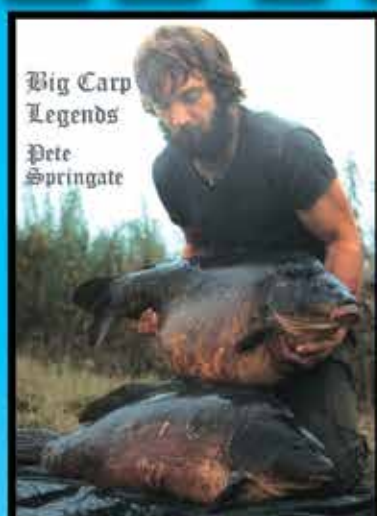
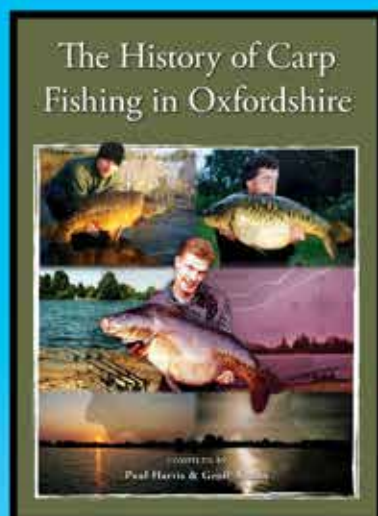


and as a weekender, if I can get bait into the zones I'm seeing them in, and keep the bait trickling in on the quiet, you're building their trust and confidence in both your bait and the spot.

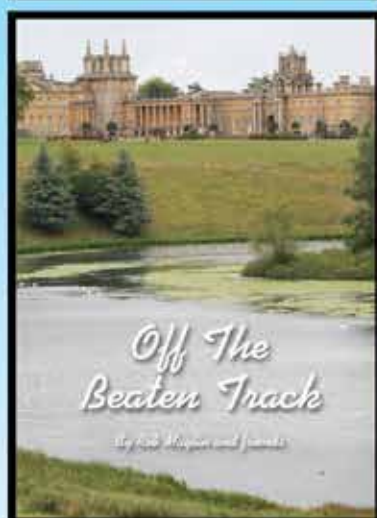
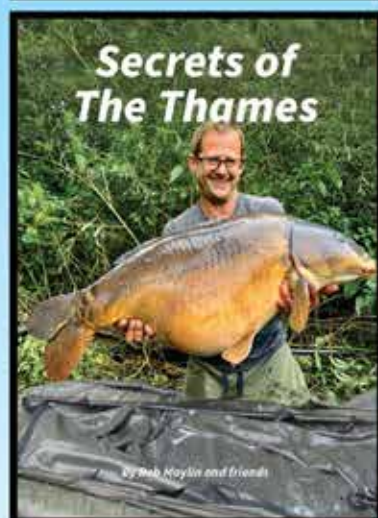
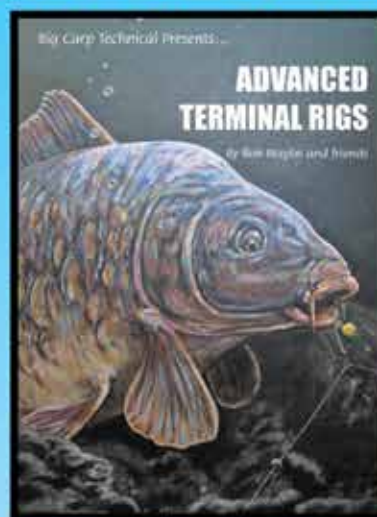
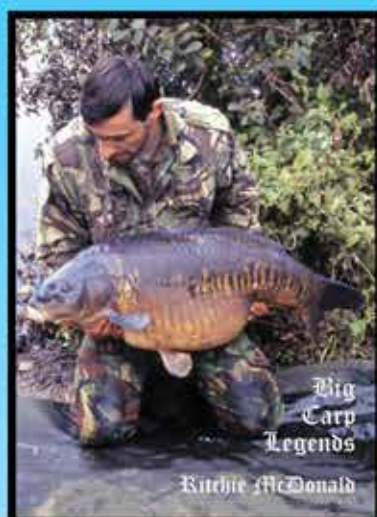
Scott Sweetman – I'm all about getting bites as quick as I can. Often fishing

nights, if you're fishing over of bits and pieces, it's going to take longer for them to pick up your rig, whereas with just 50 or so boilies on the spot, I find them much easier to hook and there's a much greater chance statistically of them picking up your hookbait.

WINTER



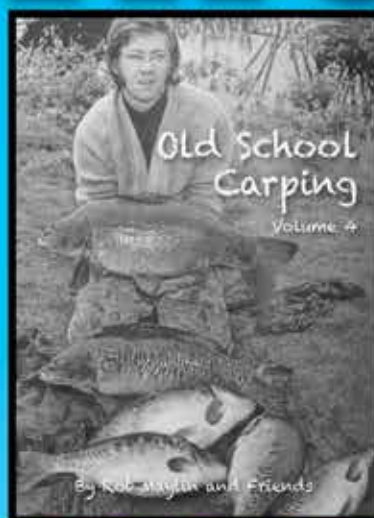
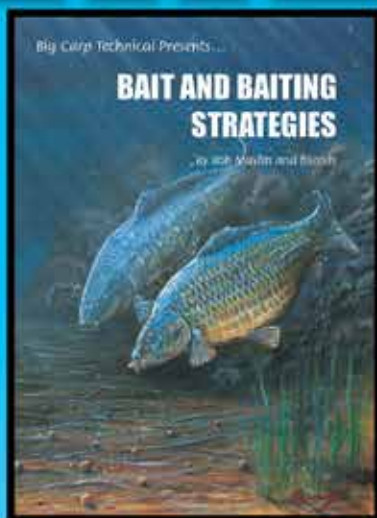
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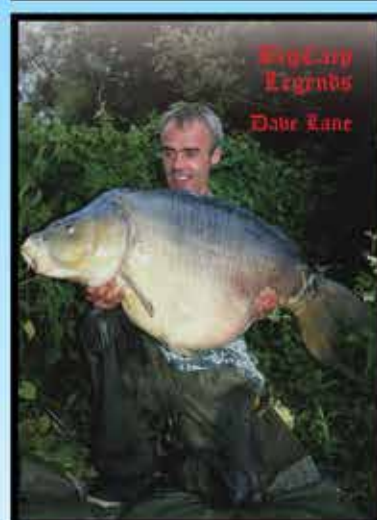
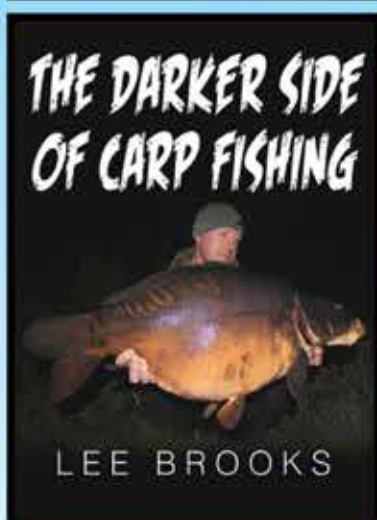
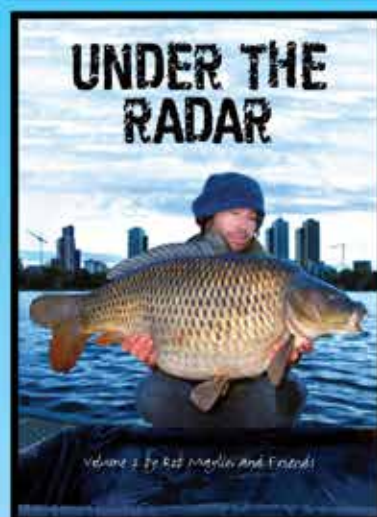
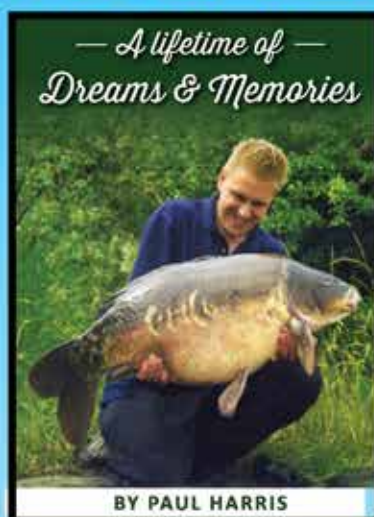
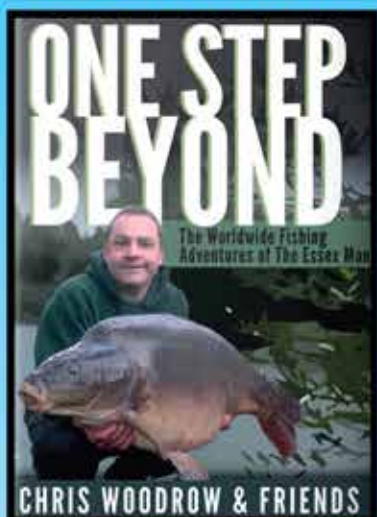
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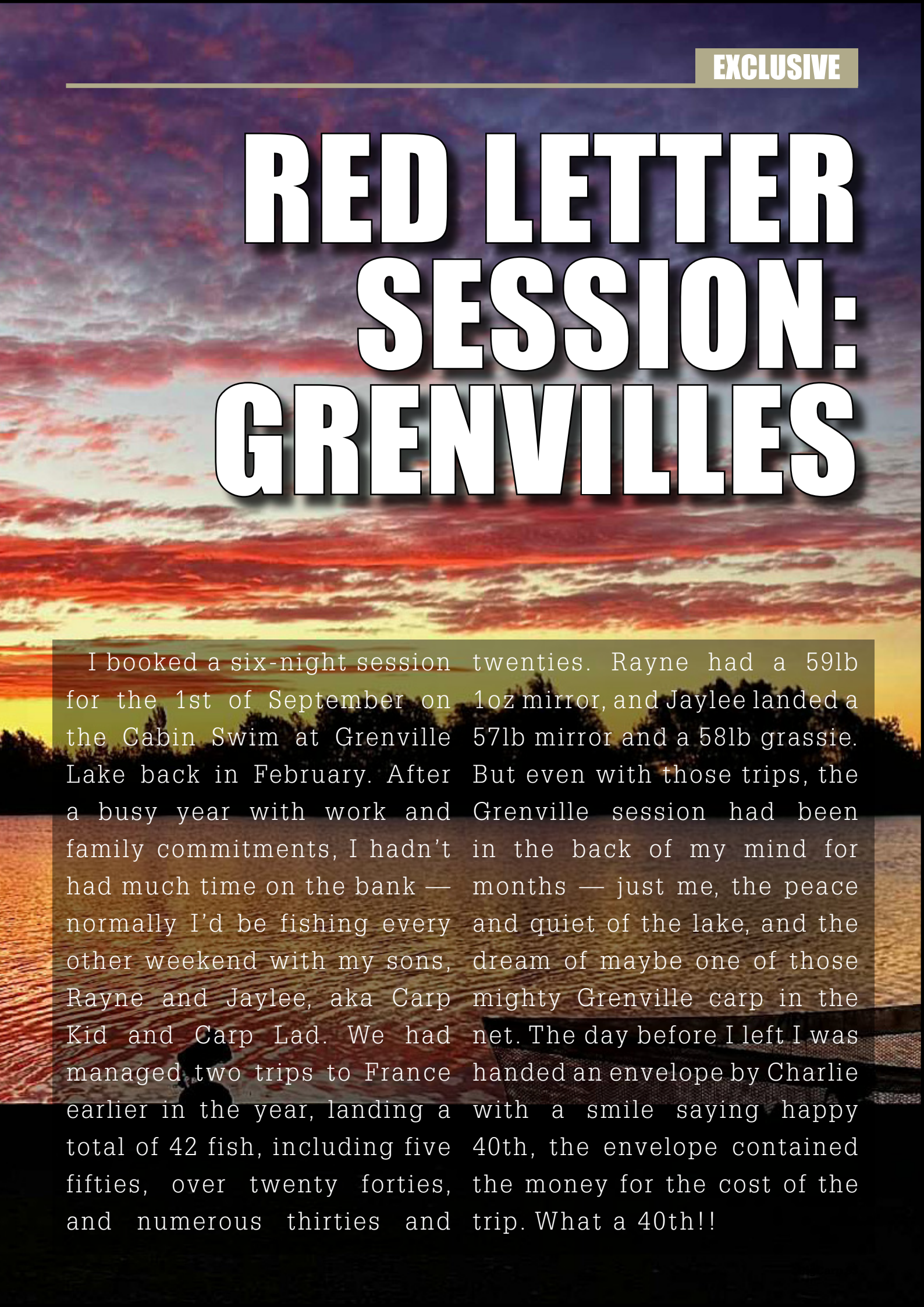


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PAUL CAMPBELL



EXCLUSIVE

RED LETTER SESSION: GRENVILLES

I booked a six-night session for the 1st of September on the Cabin Swim at Grenville Lake back in February. After a busy year with work and family commitments, I hadn't had much time on the bank — normally I'd be fishing every other weekend with my sons, Rayne and Jaylee, aka Carp Kid and Carp Lad. We had managed two trips to France earlier in the year, landing a total of 42 fish, including five fifties, over twenty forties, and numerous thirties and twenties. Rayne had a 59lb 1oz mirror, and Jaylee landed a 57lb mirror and a 58lb grassie. But even with those trips, the Grenville session had been in the back of my mind for months — just me, the peace and quiet of the lake, and the dream of maybe one of those mighty Grenville carp in the net. The day before I left I was handed an envelope by Charlie with a smile saying happy 40th, the envelope contained the money for the cost of the trip. What a 40th!!



The week leading up to the session was electric. The forecast looked perfect: low pressure, big southerlies, warm temperatures. I was on the bank by 7am on the first day, buzzing with anticipation. Speaking to Paul, the owner, I learned the lake had been producing most of its bites in the daytime, which made me even more eager to get set up. I opted for two rods on a spot at 25 wraps straight out in front, with a third rod slightly further right at 27 wraps. Paul offered a bait drop from his boat, which I welcomed, and I started with 40kg over the two spots — a mix of Cheshire Bait & Feed's Mandem and Grenville's house boilie. Over the top, I fished my absolute confidence setup: the Bacon Rig, with 12mm CC Moore NS1 yellow pop-ups.

The day passed quietly while I set up, but just past 6pm, the middle rod tore into

action, and my first carp of the session, a stunning 37lb mirror, was in the net.

The following morning, an hour after rebaiting the same spot, the rod dropped back, producing a 31lb 7oz scaley mirror.

Things went quiet for over 24 hours, until the following day when a small common of just over 23lb eventually found its way into the net.

I woke the next morning to a breathtaking sunrise and an overwhelming feeling that today would be special. Fish were showing over both spots, so we baited them at 7:30am. By 8am, a near-leather 34lb mirror was in the net, but that was just the beginning. At 1pm, the left-hand rod, motionless all week until now, exploded into life, producing a big plated 29lb mirror. At 4pm, the right-hand spot, also quiet all week, ripped off a small common — the smallest of the trip at 13lb.



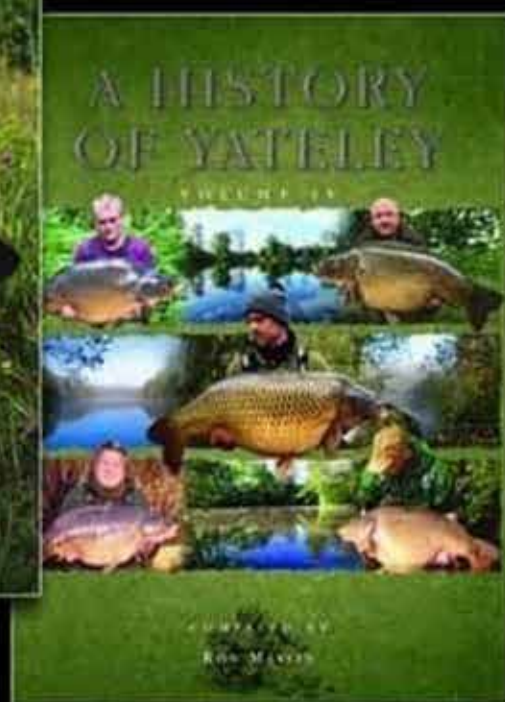
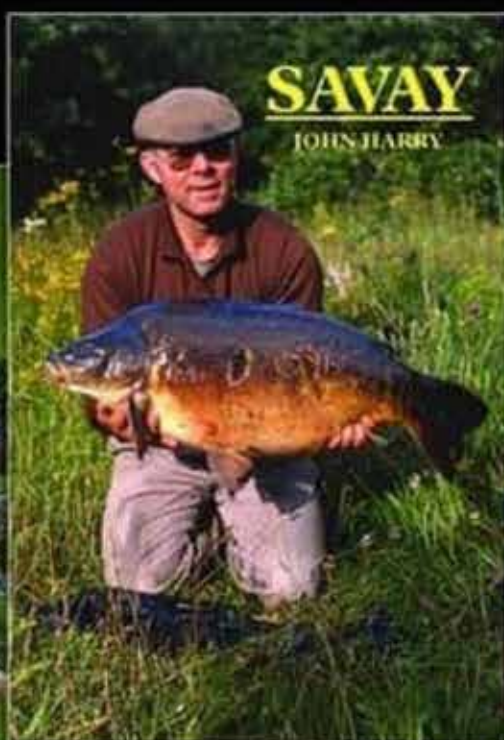
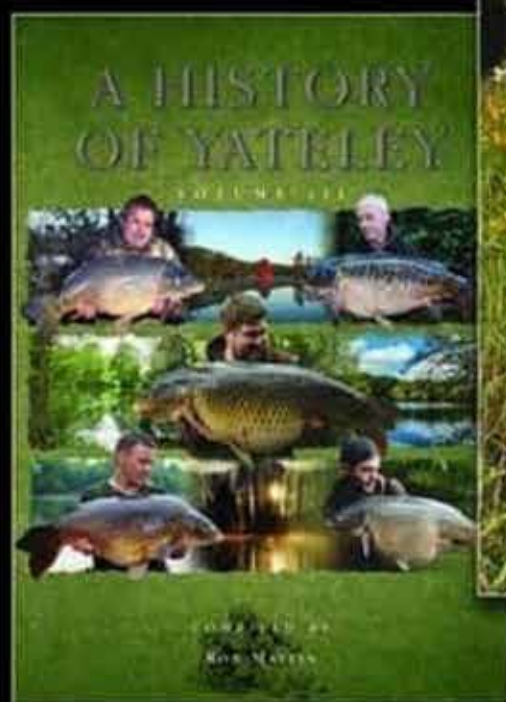
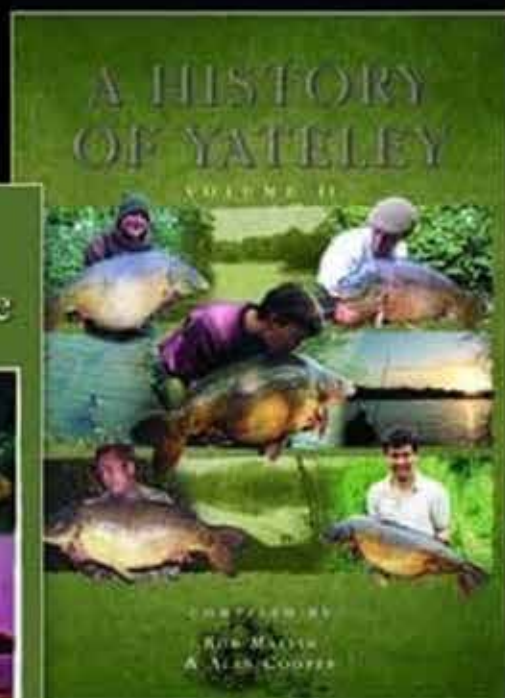
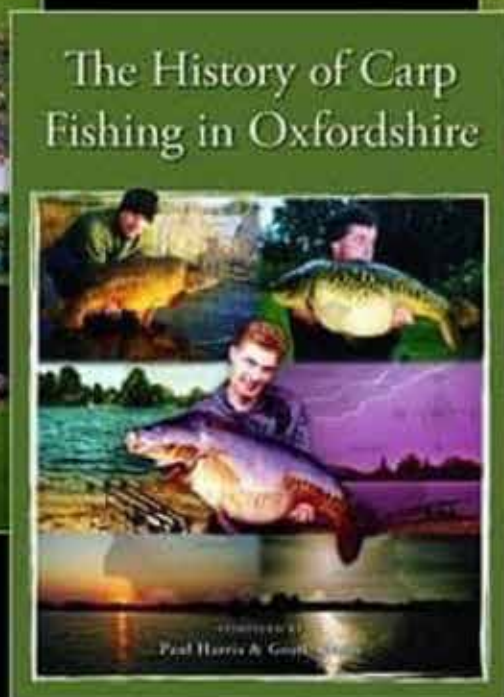
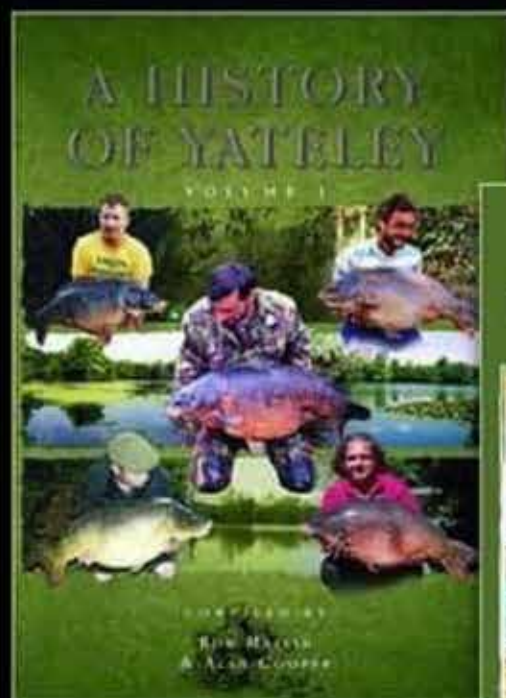
Less than an hour later, the right-hand rod was nearly dragged from the pod. The fish buried itself in weed, and I carefully placed the rod down on a slack line. Ten tense minutes later, it roared back into life. When I saw it close in, I knew instantly it was a PB. Hands shaking, heart pounding, and with the help of a lad from the next swim, we landed her: 52lb 7oz. A warrior, a real monster,

and a fish of a lifetime — one that had been missing for 18 months. Four fish in a single day — a double, a 29, a 34, and a 52 — left me utterly speechless.

Every morning, Paul would pop round for coffee and a catch-up, small chats that became one of the highlights of each day.

The next day, still riding the high from the previous day, just before 12pm the same

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spot produced another bite. This fish headed straight for the weed. Again, I set the rod down on a slack line and waited — trusting the process, just as I had with the 52lb. Minutes later, the rod ripped round and after a hard fight I was blessed with a 42lb mirror.

By 1:30pm, the right-hand rod, perfectly positioned after four casts, lit up again, producing a fully scaled 31lb 9oz mirror. That was the last bite of the day, and I had something to look forward to — Charlie arriving with fillet steaks and a bottle of wine. It was a proper little date night, the perfect way to end the first five days of what had already been the best fishing of my life.

Saturday morning brought a little storm. My Trakker RS100 bivvy stood firm, and though sharing a Solar SP bedchair was snug, it's the most comfortable bedchair

I've ever slept in — I'll be upgrading to the Wide Boy for future visits. After the storm, a rainbow stretched across the lake in a full circle — just stunning.

Fishing was quiet until 1pm, when I noticed the seagulls slicking up the spots. The house boilie contained seeds, and it was clear the fish were feeding on the surface. Within 15 minutes, the right-hand rod beeped, producing a dark, old mid-30lb mirror. The rest of the day was spent preparing rigs and sorting kit for the following morning.

Then came an unexpected surprise: Paul rang me on Sunday morning, offering early bait drops and suggesting I stay another night. I jumped at the chance. By 1:30pm, the only rod that had seen action since Thursday morning made a single beep, tip bending over to the right. A monumental fight ended with a 37lb common, a rare



capture for Grenville.

Later that afternoon, the magic continued. At 1pm, the right-hand rod produced a stunning 35lb long mirror, and as Paul was about to photograph her, the rod pulled again, yielding another 32lb mirror. I recast, perfect drop, and exactly an hour later, the rod bent round once more. The fish swam straight for the weed. I set the rod down and waited — just like I had with the 42 and 52 earlier

in the week. Ten minutes passed, then it stripped line and kited into open water. Seeing it roll 20 yards out made my heart sink. This was enormous.

When I finally netted her, Paul came down. He took one look, smirked, because he knew what fish it was. On the Reuben's, it swung round to 59lb 4oz — another PB, seven pounds heavier than my previous. This was the same fish that had come out



EXCLUSIVE







on the underwater to Bobby Unbelievable - in total, I Zamora at 60lb 8oz in May, hooked 15 carp — a double, still at a phenomenal weight 2x twenties to 29, 9x thirties for the season. Cloud nine to 37, a 42lb, a 52lb 7oz, and doesn't even begin to cover it. the 59lb 4oz — and landed

The session wasn't quite every single one. Not a finished. At 3:35pm, with just single loss. Free Spirit Hi-S 25 minutes before packing IVE rods, custom built by up, I took my receiver to Kev Clayton, were flawless, the shower block 20ft away. paired with my baiting Sure enough, the alarms strategy of Cheshire Bait & screamed. Soap and crocs Feed and Grenville house aside, I ran outside, wrapped boilie. CC Moore NS1 12mm in a towel, and lifted another yellow pop-ups accounted 35lb dark, scaley old mirror. for all the bites. The Trakker

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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).

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RS100 bivvy and Solar SP van loaded, I felt completely bedchair kept me comfortable, even in storms and sleepless nights.

This was a red-letter session, the kind we all dream of but rarely believe will happen. Grenville gave me peace, beauty, and fish beyond my wildest expectations. Paul, Charlie, and Freddie made it unforgettable. As I drove home, blown away — the best session of my life, utterly amazing.

I have included pictures me and my sons, Jaylee from lac de lion with his pb French @ 57.10 and Rayne at lac de Lumiere with his French pb @ 59.1

These are from the trips this year, a proud father, I just wanted to see their faces in there too.





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PETER HUDSON

OUT WITH THE NEW - IN WITH THE OLD

It seems weird to be starting with the words in the with old out with the new however in the last few months that's what I've been doing in my angling. In the day and age of Ronnie rigs, high viz pop ups, fishing finding devices and even weirder politics it's always nice to go back a little. By this I mean with the tactics im applying to a couple of waters I've been fishing of late, one in particular has been a pain towards me over the last few years, now you might be thinking that im a useless angler but I would say something completely different, every now and then you find yourself on a lake that is rock hard or at least I do. The last carp I had out of this place was in 2023 so that gives you a little indication on how it can fish at times. Now before going into too much detail let's take you to where

this sudden change was to take place.

August 2025: after hearing the news that Nash bait was no longer going to be a company, I would have to change my bait company, now im in no way sponsored by a bait company just an ordinary angler buying his bait so my choice would be mistral baits, after ordering five kilos, some pop ups and bait soak I felt confident in the bait, it felt like I had already been using their baits for years and headed out to a local day ticket, a quick day session was soon on the cards, so I would find myself at Lakeside fisheries quadring Lincolnshire, a lovely little lake in someone's back garden which holds a few carp in along with some course fish, I placed three rods out and for a change decided on hinge rigs, although not the true stiff version to which I have used in the past as the bottom is soft in places, a simple 10 inch boom

length of soft fluorocarbon with a 1 ½ inch hook section was soon finding its way into the middle. I decided to feed 15mm CM1 boilies and have a 12mm CM1 pop up on, as anglers we all know when it is going to go right, it's a feeling we all get, no one can really put a finger on it but you know it's going to work and that day I just knew I would get a fish although I had to wait until the middle of the afternoon for it, the middle rod suddenly came alive a screaming bite and pretty soon a 8lb common was in the net with a hinge rig hanging out its mouth, happy days first one on the new bait.

After the day ticket success I would return to the hard venue, a beautiful farm pond with some hard carp in there, I decided to apply the soft version of the hinge rig, after careful pre baiting of corn and boilies I was soon heading my way on my first session of a little campaign for the

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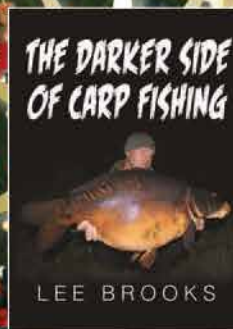
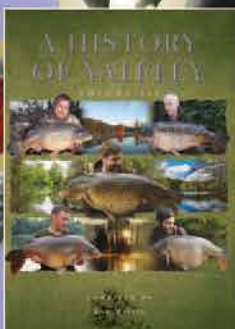
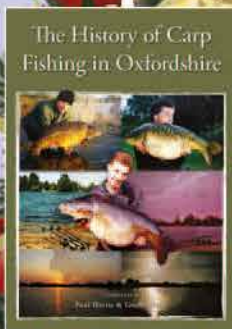
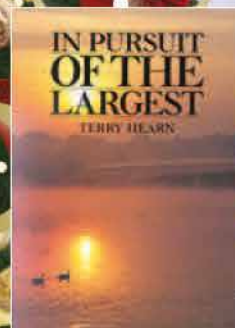
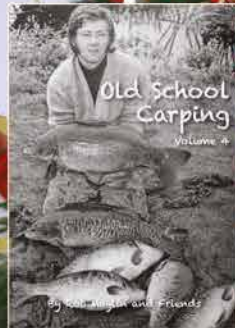
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late summer and autumn. The campaign had to be carefully planned, bait was brought, leads from otb leads a company no one seems to do in my im a team member for, all the neck of the woods. Anyways first session came and went with a blank which was to be expected although in one way it was a session to remember my good old mat Paul was to join me, having known him for 11 years it was the first time we had fished together, I have the highest respect for him, really knows his stuff and has caught some beautiful carp

from around the Peterborough area to which im originally from. Most of that session was mainly chatting, a good catch up and gage each other's angling in person to which we both went away respecting each other more, not just as anglers but also as people. Before leaving I put a bit more bait out in the area and would return the following week.

The following week was soon here, another pre baiting mission was done and dusted and I was into my second session, it was a lot cooler than

the previous week, even had a little rain so defiantly a carpy time to be on the bank. I would go on to add something else to my pre baited mix, chick peas are bar far a bait you hardly see these days, I decided to add these to the mix, only because everyone who fishes the lake uses boilies, okay yes im using the CM1 boilies but decided to add something else to the mix. Three hinge rigs were in place in record time, although again I lengthen the boom section to 12 inches which again is being different

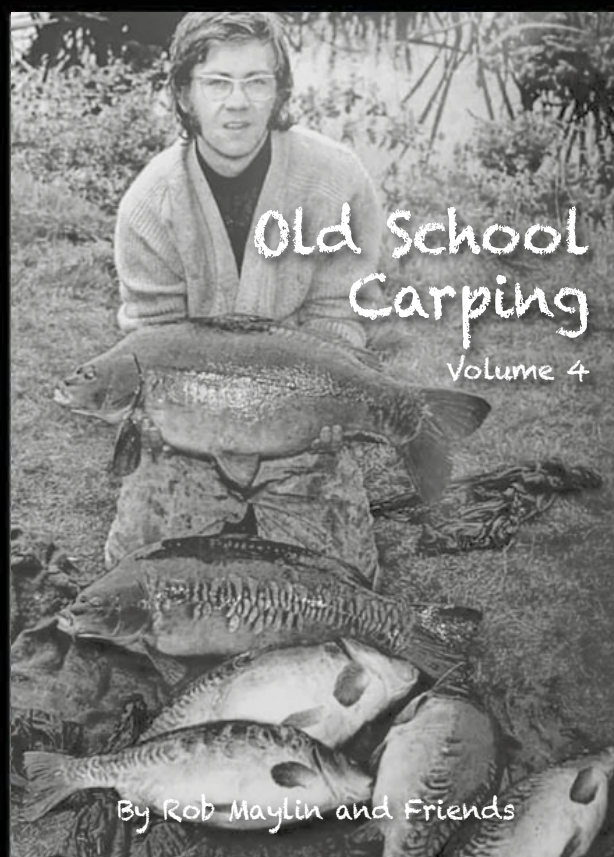
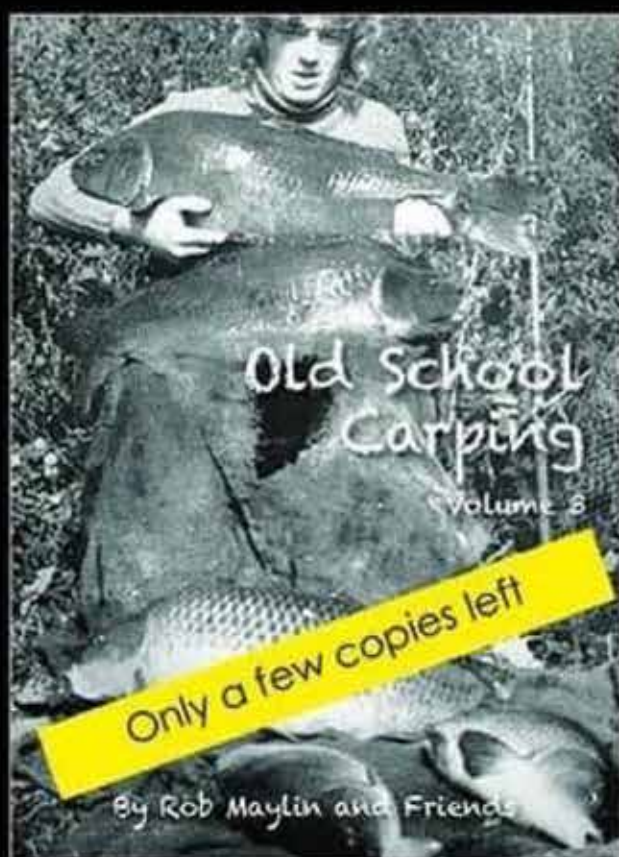
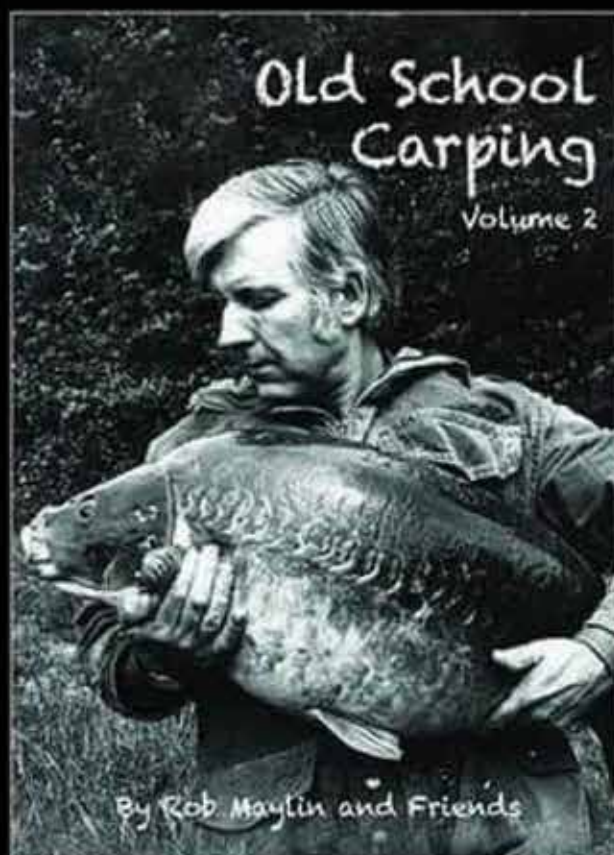
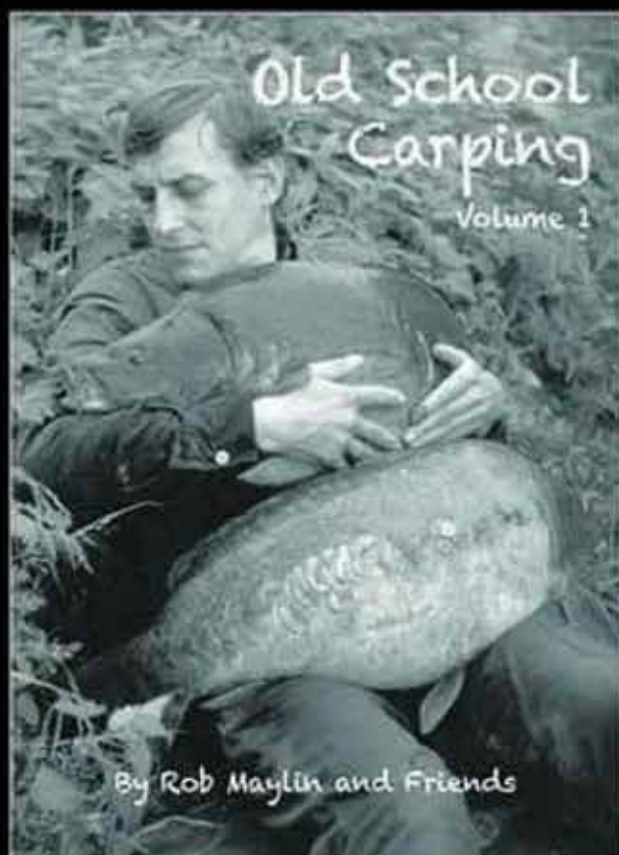


but also serves a purpose, the bottom of this lake is silty so you have to combat that and long rigs certainly is one way to go, still using 3 oz leads as I wanted the heavy plug you get in silt which will help to drive that hook home, I was still using the 12mm pop ups as again its being different to what everyone else was using at the time. Later on in the evening another member popped in for a quick chat and catch up, not long after he left the middle rod soon screamed and I was bent into clearly a hard fighting carp, my legs were certainly shaking as I didn't want to lose it. After a 10 minute fight I was staring at a mirror carp, a few pics and weigh and I soon sent her on her way, at 16lb she was a welcome start and a massive confidence boost to what I was doing, the bait, the pre bait, rig changes even things like making sure the line was 100% on the deck really was

a thumbs up to those things I had change, which to those who know me im always say change it if it's not working, if its working leave it well alone. What made that capture even sweeter was it's a fish called "Jacks Mirror" a fish that is once may twice a year visitor although hadn't been out in a while, funnily enough a week later another member caught it further down the bank, its bloody mad on how carp fishing goes at times.

Buzzed up with my success I returned a week later, another pre bait mission, a quick chat and well done to the young angler who had the mirror and I was on my way to return the following day, I sent back up in the swim that I had been in, after a hour I caught 3 ½ lb tench which again was a bit of a result as they don't come out all that much either, again on the hinge rig and CM1 pop ups. Later on that evening it would all come crashing

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down, I would go on to lose a carp. I knew that would be my last chance for a little while as like everything life gets in the way and throws up things that get in the way, plus I kind of needed a break after that loss, the rain came in that evening and I didn't see another fish after that.

So don't be scared to mix it up and go in a different direction

to what others are doing, simple things like soaking your boilies, adding different baits to the mix to give you a different baiting presentation, especially moving into the autumn months which is one of my favourite times to be out. Sometimes going back to tactics that were used years ago will give you a serious edge.....

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WINTER VIBES



Now the warmer months are a distant memory, excitement starts to build as we prepare for those cosy log fire nights while we wait for the sound of sleigh bells and Christmas carols to sound all around us.

Here, at Aqua Liliu HQ, this also means it is time to start planning for show season and this year we are excited to announce we have added a new date to the calendar. Yes, that's right folks for the first time in the history of Aqua Liliu Clothing we will be exhibiting at the Winter Carp Show on the 29th/30th November. The stand will be set up in our usual black and yellow decor just to make sure we stand out from the crowd. So, if you are looking for inspiration on what to buy the other half for Christmas then why not pay the stand a visit where Mark and Steven will be on hand to help you in any way possible.

What's New? As well as Aqua Liliu Clothing, Mark also loves to build watches in his spare time. Mark decided to combine the two passions and build 10 limited edition automatic pieces. Once the watches went live on our social media platforms, they sold out within minutes with customers messaging asking if there was going to be anymore made in the future. We are pleased to say Mark has decided to build two special one-off pieces for the Winter Carp Show.

Watch 101, will be built using a stainless steel 316 watch case along with a striking red and blue Pepsi style bezel. Inside the watch will be a 24-jewel automatic

movement with a stunning blue dial set on top. The dial itself is unique in every way with the Aqua Liliu koi logo printed at the top and the words Aqua Liliu Clothing printed in red at the bottom. What else makes this dial unique is the fact there are only two in existence with no plans to repeat in the future.

Watch 102, will again be built using a stainless 316 case however this one is being kept under lock and key until day 1 of the show. Trust us when we say this will be worth waiting for. So, if you would like the chance to be part of Aqua Liliu history then be quick.

Also new to the ever-growing range, we bring you Predator and yes, we know it is not Carp related however, we are coming into Perch season and here at Aqua Liliu it's not just about our stunning silt pigs we want to celebrate our other species too.

Predator will be available in Navy blue with the design brought to you in a stunning pumpkin orange that features our beloved Perch hunting amongst the dark wilderness. Not only this, but you will also be able to purchase this in Olive green with the design featured in a ghostly grey and like all our designs we only ever have a limited run. These will be available in our high-quality T-shirts and hoodies and trust us when we say that anything you purchase from this family run brand will be the most comfortable item of clothing you own. We always say the proof is in the pudding and that is why we have won so many awards. There is also a rumour that Mark





is working on a Pike version, but this has not been confirmed yet, but we will keep you posted on any further developments.

If you would like to keep up with all the latest news, then why not go over to the website and subscribe then this way you will never miss out. It is easy to subscribe, just go to www.aqualiliumclothing.com and scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on the subscribe button and add your email address and that is it, as easy as that.

Best sellers. Although we are always looking at new ways to grow, it is important to remember how you got there in the first place and we would not be anywhere without our first design, The Blue Koi. So, although we have tweaked things over the years, we have decided to bring out its twin brother, The Green Koi. Please do not tell anyone but we prefer this to the Blue Koi but nevertheless both are available. We are also proud to announce a fresh stocking of The Full Monty Dog bivvy jackets; these are without doubt one of the best products we have ever manufactured and are a must have for your beloved dog.

The coat is made from a fleece material and is designed to fit semi tight to your dog. Our coats are not like your conventional dog coat where you have a Velcro strap under the belly. With the Full Monty, you put the head in followed by the front legs and zip down the back. Again, please do not take our word for it, just look at the rewards won and the reviews. I can hear you all saying I bet you have not got one in my dog's size, Trust me we have, we go from extra small right up to 4xl and if that is still not big enough, we can custom fit to your best friend.

When it comes to angling fashion and practicality, we really do try



our best to cater for everyone without compromising on quality but if you are still not sure what to get somebody then why not take advantage of our gift vouchers that range from £5.00 up to £100.00 and take out the stress of picking a gift.

We would love to feature every product we do however this would end up taking over the whole magazine and less face facts we all want to see fish and not yet another long-winded advert, so on that note we will bring this advert to a close and wish you all the best for your autumn campaign.

All the best
The Aqua Lilium Team.



Website: www.aqualiliumclothing.com

Email: aqualiliumclothing@hotmail.com

Tel: 07854629130

You can also reach us through or Facebook or instagram pages



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bigcarpstudio@hotmail.
co.uk

Design & Production
James Harrison

Also available this
month Big Carp issue
352.



Front Cover:
Bill Phillips with a club
pond clooper



Primal Mentality Youth Project - Chris Jervis

Another brilliant session by the lakeside – and what a day it was! Our young crew came together not just to fish, but to connect – with nature, with new skills, and with each other. From setting up rods to learning how to safely handle fish, everyone got hands-on and involved. One of the best moments? When one of the lads caught his very first fish — and the whole group cheered him on. That's what this project is all about.

Today we saw new friendships form, confidence grow, and plenty of smiles along the way. Massive thanks to everyone who made it happen — we're already counting down to the next session!

8. CARP CHAT

16. CARP SCENE

28. BILL PHILLIPS

42. DICK GAYNER

58. PAUL WILKINSON

86. RICHARD SKIDMORE



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John Paul McCusker reported that the fishing was tricky to say the least with the carp still wanting to spawn again. Nicked a few, though, all around 23-25 lb. Caught using size 4 Scorpion Ronnie Rigs and our composite Safety lead clip system due to weed and alot of snags" Well done John.



A mad night on Osprey for team member Lee Oxley. An 8lb, 17, 19, 20, 23, 23. After a busy night I left rods out at 2am together some much needed sleep." Carptackleonline end tackle used. Well done Lee.



Can that smile get any bigger? Team member Chevy Reid took his son Vaughan to @linearfisheriesofficial B2 over the weekend, which resulted in this magnificent 33lb 13oz mirror.

"I had just started to walk to the car when i heard Vaughan shouting dad, dad. I ran back, having not gone far, and watched him play the fish all the way in. On the scales, it went 33lb 13oz, his first 30, and a new PB." Terminal tackle used was all CTO products, including a size 4 Scorpion Wide Gape and CTO Pro hooklink. Well done, Vaughan! Congratulations on your PB.



Ben Flockton decide to tie up a number of different rigs made from our components to see which was the most effective. After feeding heavily he got the



carp feeding and ended up catching on all of the rigs. It was difficult to say which one was better!! Some days I guess it doesn't matter when they're feeding so heavily.

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Swivels



Scorpion Choddy Crank



Scorpion Crank



Scorpion Wide Gape



Scorpion Ronnie Rigs



Composite Leadclip



Snag Hook



Aligners



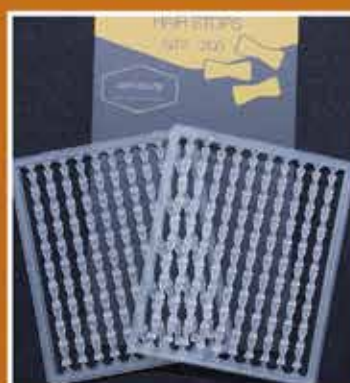
Tungsten Aligners



Tungsten Putty



Shrink Tube



Hair Stops



Hook Beads



Swivel Deal



Tungsten Hooklink Sinkers



Chod Filament

THE 2025 WORLD CARP CLASSIC MAP

THE FULL
BREAKDOWN:

@primitiv.corp

pegs 1 - 13,

Rippton Smart

Fishing Tackle

pegs 14 - 26, @

specimenbaits

pegs 28 -

40, Nikl -

Specialista na

kapry pegs 41

- 53, Ultimate

Products pegs 54 - 66, MEUS Polska pegs 67 - 80, the NEW addition of The Key Carpfishing pegs 81 - 93 and PB Products UK pegs 94 - 106

.. the FULL GPS map, assisted in its creation by Polish qualifier organisers and World Carp Classic competitors @grzesiekkozal & @tommy_carplifer, is coming shortly so make sure you're following!



CARPTACKLEONLINE WANT NEW TEAM MEMBERS

We are recruiting new team members, so if you want to join our small but steadily growing team, you can get on the bankside regularly, put a few carp on the mat, handy with a camera and video get in touch. We offer a discount of between 10% to 25% off our products range.

Email us at sales.carponline@gmail.com with a bit about your angling

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Come just for a day/half days fishing, or unwind for a few days in one of our four secluded shepherds huts (each sleep 2) with balconies overlooking the two main lakes, and all supplied with linen, wifi, BBQs, TV, oven, woodburners, welcome pack. Min 2 nights. Dogs welcome (secure fields for off lead runs). Wild swimming lake. Footpaths nearby.



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CHRIS JERVIS

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We're excited to launch another 5-week block of angling sessions at Mill Dam, Kirkby.

Cost: £25 for the full 5 weeks

Session length: 1 hour 30 minutes each

What's included: All bait, tackle, and equipment provided.

Over the 5 weeks, participants will learn:

- Watercraft skills
- Equipment set-up
- Rig making
- Plus much more hands-on angling knowledge

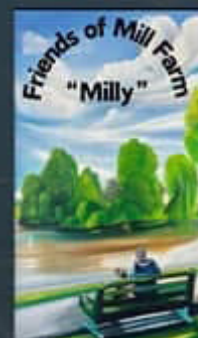
Dates & Times Available

Every Monday	Every Wednesday
4:00pm - 5:30pm	4:00pm - 5:30pm
5:30pm - 7:00pm	5:30pm - 7:00pm

Location: Mill Dam Park, Kirkby, L32 2bh
Places are limited, Booking is essential



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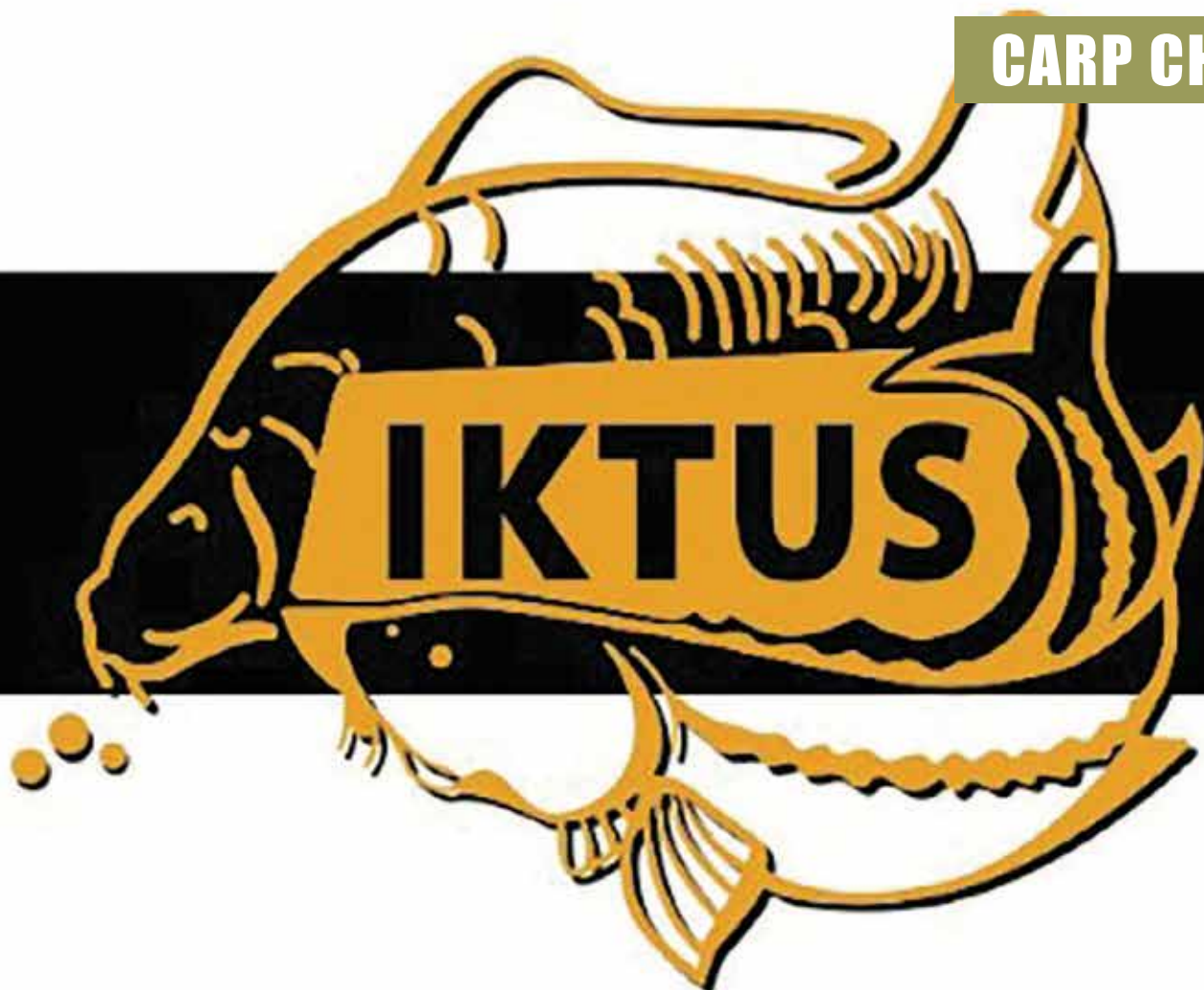
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FISHING RESORT



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

CATCH OF THE DAY



Jamie and Harry Redknapp are heading off on a new adventure in ITV's *Catch of the Day*, a six-part fishing series airing in 2026.

The father-and-son duo will travel across the UK and Europe, competing in real fishing tournaments everywhere from Scottish lochs to Scandinavian fjords and Mediterranean shores.

Their goal is to reel in the prized "Catch of the Day."

GET YOUR PROSTATE CHECKED - IT'S EASY



To all the anglers that showed an interest in and supported my Angling Projects over my 50 years of leadership I am pleased to report that in addition to the £10,000 pounds we donated to Great Ormond Street Hospital I can now report we have just made a donation of £8000 to prostate cancer research. This has only been possible with your support. To all of you thinking of getting checked, just remember prostate cancer can kill, get yourself checked. It's only a blood test.

BETTER BE SAFE THAN SORRY

Les Webber

TNT

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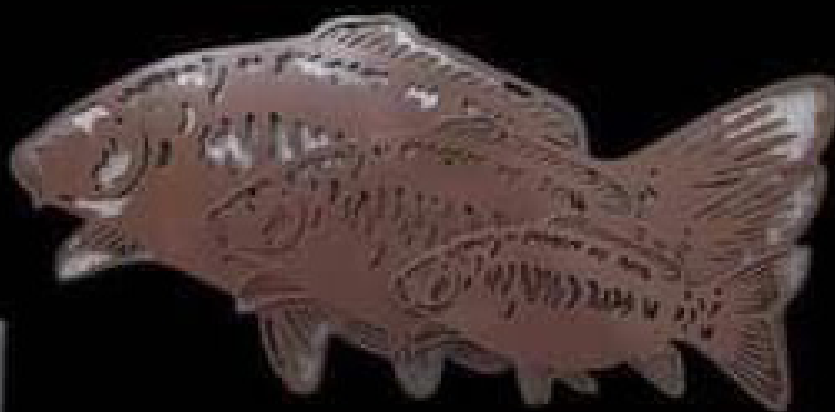
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fishing tackle and bespoke work.**



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- Compasses at boat & handheld side, the boat heading is also given when in stationary state
- 5 favourite spots can be defined out of 100 save waypoints
- Quiet arrive feature to eliminate the noise when boat approaching the spot
- CCS mode to free your hand, one button to active cruise control system, boat always run in straight line
- SD card storage support import/export settings, waypoints, and software upgrade.
- *.tslw log file support, can record all sonar & GPS info to SD card



- Google kml file support
- High reliability, standard 8 channels remote, support MIXER
- Start cruise control by one click on joystick
- Autopilot mode, allow [arrive actions] and [auto back-home]
- [Quiet-reach] mode enable the boat run with lower speed when approaching the target
- Pick a point on the map and start autopilot at anytime
- 6 buttons can be mapped to any channels of the remote control, easy to use.

Boat comes with full upgraded electronics, speed controllers and new batteries as standard plus charger

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KORDA COMPAC DARK KAMO UMBRELLA



With a generous diameter, you'll have plenty of all-round cover, and unlike a clunky golf umbrella, this one's purpose-built for anglers. Crafted from durable, waterproof fabric and finished in a sleek dark kamo matt design, it blends perfectly into your setup while adding a touch of style.

When the weather turns, the one-touch opening system gets you sheltered in seconds.

Practical, reliable, and made for the bank – the Compac Umbrella is one piece of kit you'll be glad to have at arm's reach.

- RRP - £27.99

the goodz carp baitz



THE T.A.S.K.

A blend of tuna, krill and real food items with added spices and attractors complimented with GoodZ own amino booster that enhances the strong food signals emitted from this bait.



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A blend of highly digestible milk proteins and real food items to achieve a highly digestible, high protein all season food source bait. The Fruit and Malted Milk blend is a carp classic



THE N.M.E.

Introducing the N.M.E (Nut & Maple Extract) – The N.M.E is not just another bait—it's a revolution in carp nutrition and attraction. A true masterpiece of modern carp fishing science.

matching liquid foods, drips, PVA bag mixes, wafers and pop ups to match your chosen bait

Goodz, a company founded a decade ago, has built a stellar reputation as a premier supplier of high-quality fish bait. From its inception, Goodz has been committed to providing anglers with products that ensure success on the water, combining expert craftsmanship with a passion for fishing. Over the years, their dedication to excellence has earned them the trust of fishing enthusiasts and professionals alike. Whether it's their attention to sourcing premium ingredients or their innovative bait designs, Goodz continues to set the standard in the industry, making every fishing experience truly exceptional.

www.goodzcarpbaits.co.uk

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SOLAR UNDERCOVER CAMO BROLLY

Solar's best selling Undercover Camo Brolly System. Made from 10,000 HH camo material, the front of the brolly features a rain gutter, twin storm poles and front support bar. There are multiple door options with full fabric and mozzi-mesh, which can also be set-up letter-box style, roll-back sides and the entire front infill panel can also be removed.

The drop-down rib extensions on the sides remove the need to fit short storm poles on the side of the brolly. There is a mozzi-mesh vent in the rear for improved air flow. Supplied with heavy-duty pegs, storm poles and an over-sized carry bag.

- 10,000 HH Camo fabric
- Rain gutter on the front to direct rain water to the sides
- Rear Mozzi-mesh air-vent
- Two Velcro rod straps
- Seven-spoke hub system with maximum head room thanks to the low-profile hub
- Heavy-duty pegs supplied
- Drop-down rib extensions (removable)
- Multiple door options with full fabric, mozzi-mesh, roll-back sides
- Front can be completely removed
- Dimensions (m): 264cm x 150cm x 150cm
- Weight: 7kg
- RRP - £294.99

Carp Scene



WHAT IS A FIELD WATCH? HISTORY & KEY FEATURES OF THE MILITARY CLASSIC

WHAT DEFINES A FIELD WATCH?

A field watch is essentially a military timepiece designed to be read quickly and survive tough conditions. Think of it as the Land Rover of watches: built for purpose, not for show. These watches were originally created for soldiers in World War I who needed to check time whilst fighting, and they've evolved into some of the most practical timepieces you can buy today.

WHAT MAKES A FIELD WATCH DIFFERENT FROM OTHER WATCHES?

Three things really matter: you can read them instantly even in poor light, they're tough enough to handle whatever you throw at them, and they keep accurate time without fuss. Unlike fancy dress watches or chunky dive watches, field watches focus on one job: telling time clearly when it really counts.

Modern field watches have come a long way from their wartime origins. The best ones today, like those from NITE Watches, blend authentic military looks with modern technology. We're talking Swiss quartz movements that are incredibly accurate and tritium illumination that glows constantly in the dark without needing any charging. It's not about abandoning tradition, it's about making these watches even better at what they've always done best.



MX10 NIGHT ON RUBBER STRAP WITH TRITIUM ILLUMINATION

TRITIUM ILLUMINATION: THE MODERN ADVANTAGE

One of the coolest features of proper modern field watches is tritium illumination, and it makes a huge difference in real use. Most watches with glow-in-the-dark features use paint that you need to "charge" by exposing it to light. Tritium is completely different - it glows constantly for decades without ever needing charging.

NITE uses professional-grade tritium tubes that provide constant visibility in complete darkness for over 20 years. No button-pushing, no light-charging required, just constant, reliable glow.



MX10 GREEN TRITIUM ILLUMINATION VIALS

MODERN PROFESSIONAL APPLICATIONS

Field watches aren't just military history pieces. They're actively used by people who need reliable timekeeping in demanding jobs. Military personnel still rely on them, but you'll also find field watches on the wrists of police officers, firefighters, paramedics, outdoor guides, and industrial workers who need watches that won't let them down.

Today's military operations need watches that go beyond traditional field watch specs. We're talking GPS that works properly, night vision that doesn't interfere with your equipment, chemical resistance for nasty environments, and temperature stability from Arctic cold to desert heat. Professional civilian roles have expanded well beyond traditional military use too.



MX10 JUNGLE ON RUBBER STRAP

The appeal extends to civilian life as well. If you're into hiking, camping, or any outdoor activities, a field watch makes perfect sense. They're also great for everyday wear if you prefer practical, no-nonsense watches that focus on function over flash. The clean, simple design works well whether you're in work clothes or casual gear.

NITE offers various collections that serve all these different users through designs that balance authentic military heritage with modern performance.

CHOOSING THE BEST FIELD WATCH: WHAT TO LOOK FOR

When you're researching the best field watches available today, a few things really matter when separating quality options from marketing hype. Quality field watch makers concentrate on proven reliability rather than flashy features or lifestyle marketing. Traditional American heritage manufacturers offer entry-level options, whilst European tactical watch brands create specialised military contracts and Japanese manufacturers produce robust alternatives.

NITE occupies the unique position of authentic military heritage combined with cutting-edge technology. Unlike mass-market brands using basic luminous paint, or expensive alternatives offering similar features at inflated prices, NITE delivers genuine military specification watches with advanced tritium technology at fair pricing.

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE >](#)



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A HAWK NIGHTFALL TRITIUM WATCH

TOUGH
& LIGHT
COMPOSITE
CARBON
CASE



BRIGHTEST
T100
TRITIUM
ILLUMINATION

RRP
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To enter answer this question. What illumination is used in NITE Watches?

a.Luminova b.Chromalight c.Tritium

Email your answer to info@bigcarpmagazine.co.uk or Text to 07768 731425 or Social Media - Answer in comments.
One lucky winner will be selected at random. Competition closes Dec 1st '25 & winner will receive watch before Christmas.

Tried, tested and guaranteed, NITE Watches are made with quality Swiss-made components,
super bright tritium illumination and most importantly are designed to be worn doing what you love.

Tight Lines !



SWISS-MADE
MOVEMENT



TRITIUM
ILLUMINATION



SAPPHIRE
CRYSTAL



5 YEAR
WARRANTY

NITEWATCHES.COM

GEOFF ANDERSON WIZZ WOOL SOCKS



With our WizWool socks you really get a lot for the price. The socks are cheaper than our top series, but both comfort and durability are still at a really high level.

The WizWool series consists of three models, all of which are made from certified Woolmark wool blends.

- from RRP £29.95

RAVEN NIGHT VISION MONOSCOPE



This monoscope is a revolutionary device that redefines night vision technology. This compact and powerful monoscope leverages cutting-edge infrared imaging to provide unparalleled clarity and detail in low-light conditions. The Raven Monocular boasts a robust and durable design, making it ideal for a wide range of applications, from outdoor recreation and wildlife observation to security and surveillance. Its lightweight and ergonomic form factor ensures comfortable and extended use.

RRP - £TBC

QUEST MK4 2 MAN BIVVY



The Quest 2 Man bivvy was released in 2017 and since its launch, 1000's have been sold with excellent feedback received from our customers. Now, this has been upgraded even further for the Mark 4. Now with fully zipped in groundsheet and inner capsule option ensuring the best comfort and keeping out those unwanted bugs and wildlife. Comes with the very best 210D 10000HH material with blackout lining inside.

RRP - from £289.99



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SOLITUDE, INTIMACY AND CLUB POND CLOOPERS

To say carp angling has changed over my past fifty odd years' participation would be a massive understatement. I'm not about to preach the pros and cons of old against new, as I believe that both have their merits in very different ways. However, there are a few wonderful things I loved back then that have become rare to find in the heady days of twenty-first century carp fishing.

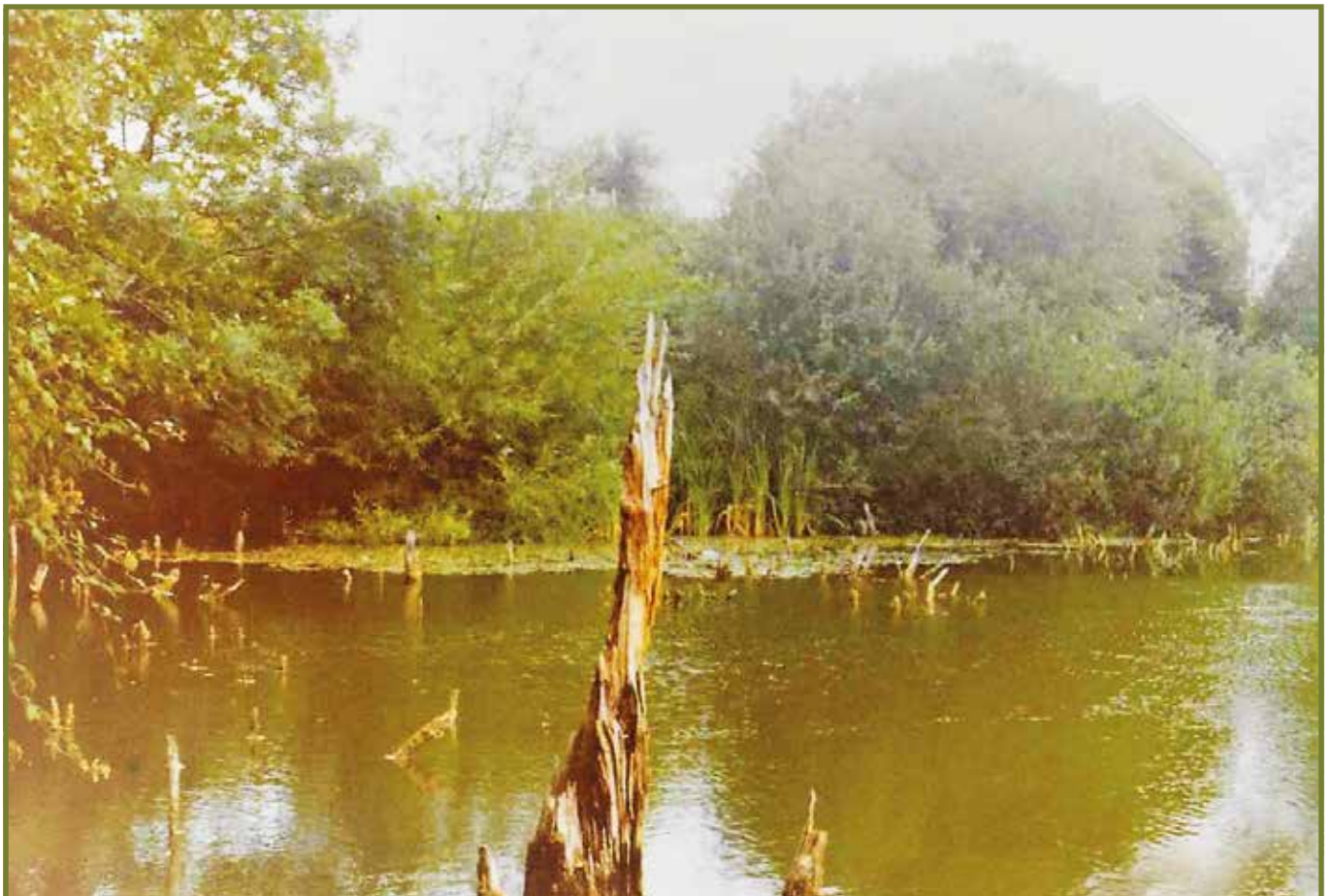
As a truly habitual carp fisher, I loved an element of solitude in my fishing, something that was much more available fifty years ago in the form of affordable local club waters. These types of waters were often match and pleasure fishing orientated so rarely night fished. Another attraction for me was small intimate places where nerve tingling close combat tactics were possible. The adrenalin rush from being so close to your

quarry, seeing, hearing, sensing and even smelling it can be immense. I realise that such places do still exist but are likely to be in the form of exclusive closed shop, cost prohibitive syndicates.

Another aspect so close to my heart back in the day was margin crust fishing for clooping carp. Many of today's carp anglers will never have had the opportunity to present a floating bait to that beautiful sound of a surface feeding carp followed by the heart stopping wrench on the rod when the take occurs. To try and portray the essence of the magic that was available to all who were prepared to look, I take you back to the early/mid-seventies and a water that gave all the above and some, the club pond.

I guess I was fortunate living in Kent at the time with a host of known carp waters potentially available to me. However, I was aware of a small pond very close to my home that was alleged to hold a few big carp, which was of more than a little interest to me. The pond was an old brick pit of less than a couple of acres nestled in the middle of a housing estate. Sounds awful I know, but due to a high fence, trees and dense undergrowth you would never know it existed. My first recce was in the summer of 1973, achieved by climbing the fence and crawling through the bushes. As soon as I laid eyes on the place I knew I had to get a ticket. Standing on a high bank looking down was this beautiful lily clad pool with a mass of old tree snags to my right, I could make out a few dark shapes drifting between the old dead branches. I climbed a tree above the snags and gazed down into the entangled branches to see a handful of carp that appeared to be in the twenty-plus bracket. These were very big fish in those days.

That recce turned out to be a big mistake; I was seen and reported to the local workingman's club that had the fishing rights to the pond. I applied and was promptly rejected. After an interview with the secretary, he made it clear they disapproved of my illegal entry, which I of course flatly denied. At the time I was leading a campaign in another local club for the use of three rods on the canal, and unfortunately, he knew about this too. With the workingmen's club being very match fishing orientated, they totally disapproved. I am sure my involvement in the three-rod rule campaign on the canal (incidentally to be approved soon after) was the main reason for my continued rejection over the next couple of years. After much creeping, crawling, begging and pleading, I eventually got a ticket in late July 1975. Ironically, I went on to become



fisheries officer a couple of years later and worked with them for several years, making various improvements, but that's another story.

From my first session on 30th July '75, I knew the club pond was special; the ambiance was enough to cause goose bumps. Thoughts of all the stories of how it is haunted and the drowning of a local woman who was rumoured to have sunk without trace to its bottomless depths sent shivers down my spine. Surrounding trees and bushes created a sort of cold, dark and eerie atmosphere. The water was dark and deep, between twenty and thirty feet in the main, only shallowing steeply very close in. There were old dead trees and branches sticking up out the water looking almost threatening, like ghostly figures emerging from the depths as the light rapidly faded away in the evening. The nights were as black as your



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£675 000 (€815,000)



- 80 acres with 4 lakes of 12, 2 x 6 and 4 acres in unspoilt countryside.
- Approx 650 fish to 95lb, inc 20 x 50lb's, 8 x 60lb's 2 x 70lb+
- Ex theme park containing various buildings and structures. The property retains a leisure land classification with mains water and 3-phase power.
- A restaurant, bar and fully equipped kitchen adjacent to two large secure storage areas (10m x 15m) each with accessible power. ideal for a workshop, storing tackle and bait, additional freezer space.
- The bathrooms occupy a separate building, freshly painted, a recently installed 300L boiler and male and female facilities.
- A one-bedroom cosy cabin with an enclosed security fence.
- Planning consent for a house from an existing structure (8.5m x 24.4m).

A rare opportunity to acquire a top tier French carp fishing venue. The stock alone is worth in excess of 500,000 euros. The site is beautiful and unspoilt and provides a tranquil and unique experience to the visiting angler. Significant bookings already in place this year. Additional information, please email **ONLY** if genuinely interested info@brittanyforestlakes.co.uk

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hat, and in the days of never using a torch while fishing, even the simplest of tasks was difficult. Even the art of tying hooks after threading the bait up the line with a needle had to be mastered.

I did not catch any carp for what seemed an age in spite of doing at least three nights a week. What I did do was to learn and start to get a connection with the place. I baited steadily with corn tight to the margins, which produced several tench and two carp lost in snags. A few crusts scattered in the margin lilies late evening would almost always result in a visit from clooping carp at some point in the night. The big thing that became obvious was that no one else seemed to fish nights – not once had I seen another angler at night and only the odd one in passing when leaving – absolute heaven.

14th August '75, I arrived at the pond early in the evening, and as usual, I had the place to myself. The weather was warm, very still, overcast and felt stormy. I crept round to my swim, full of anticipation, with 10ft Hardy R/W glass rods tackled up with 18lb line on Michell 300 reels all ready to go. Homemade buzzers on bank sticks were stealthily pushed in a few feet back from the bank. The first rod, baited with corn on a ¼oz link leger, was set with only about three feet of the rod protruding over the water, no cast, just open the bail arm to let the bait drop. An indicator cylinder was set on a needle with the bail open, and a handful of corn was put around the hook bait and a few crusts in the marginal weed. The second rod was baited with crust and set on the rest ready to drop when a clooper came around in the night. I lay in an ex-army sleeping bag on the ground beside the rods to await events while the eerie darkness started to wrap itself around me.



Casters, pellets, and worms make an excellent combo when targeting carp during the autumn/winter months. That is why we are now offering casters and pellets here at Bilsdale to perfectly complement your worms, and make sure you have everything you need in one place for your weekend fishing trip. Give us a call to arrange bait collection or to add casters and pellets to your online order.

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Drifting in and out of semi sleep, thoughts meandering between monster carp and what may be lurking in the haunted blackness, every sound was evaluated. A movement in the bushes aroused fears of ghostly beings, a splash that could be carp, then a massive slurp very close by, and suddenly I was sitting up with heart pumping. With my eyes adjusted to the dark, I could just make out the inky blackness of the margin water with the darker shapes of the lily leaves just visible. Slight humping of the water and the sounds of a carp moving very close by raised the adrenalin pump to new heights, hand hovering by the rod and shaking uncontrollably. Slurp, bubble, slurp as more of the free crust was engulfed and ripples ebbed out from beneath the rod tip. Hardly daring to move, I opened the bail arm, gently allowing my crust to kiss the surface. With one hand on the rod butt while the other softly held the line, time seemed to stand still, sweat beads forming in the hot, still and eerie midnight air.

Slurp, splash, crash as in a split second silence gave way to rod bending, reel screaming carnage as a leviathan of the deep made its bid for freedom. In a desperate attempt to stop it from reaching nearby snags, I clamped down and heaved as hard as I dared, and there was a massive crash and commotion as the monster was stopped and turned over on the surface. All became a complete blur as I desperately plunged the net into the vicinity of the commotion beneath me. Somehow a massive carp finished up in the net and was lying on the grass beside me. Only just visible in the darkness, I could make out it was a fat mirror. Thoughts of over twenty pounds were racing through my head as I bundled it into a sack and lowered it into a nearby margin to await some light for weighing and



photographs. The remainder of the night dragged without sleep or incident apart from the stillness giving way to a short, violent storm.

At the first sign of light, I contacted club official who lived nearby to come and do the weighing and photographs. Much like most of the clubs in the early days, they liked to officially weigh big fish for the records and awarding of trophies for the biggest of each species annually. To my delight the weight was 21lb 1oz, my first from the club pond and also my first over twenty from a water other than the canal. Also it was my best to date caught on margin crust.

I continued to fish the club pond at least two or three nights a week, almost always alone for about five years and to a lesser degree for a further five beyond that when things changed a great deal. Particularly during the early years, I learned a massive amount about the pond, its inhabitants and close quarter watercraft. I managed to catch pretty much all of its residents during the first five years, several of which were over twenty up to a best of 24lb 4oz. A lot of these were caught on margin crust but also to new methods from the very successful free lined single broad bean to self-developed boiled baits and baked floaters. In spite of my initial problems gaining acceptance to the club, I did eventually become a respected member of the committee as fisheries officer, and just for the record I managed to win the annual carp trophy at least five times.

Such was the close proximity of the fishing at times that one night I had the shock of my life when a carp jumped in my swim, hit the rods and knocked them clean off the rests. I have so many stories I could tell from those magical years at

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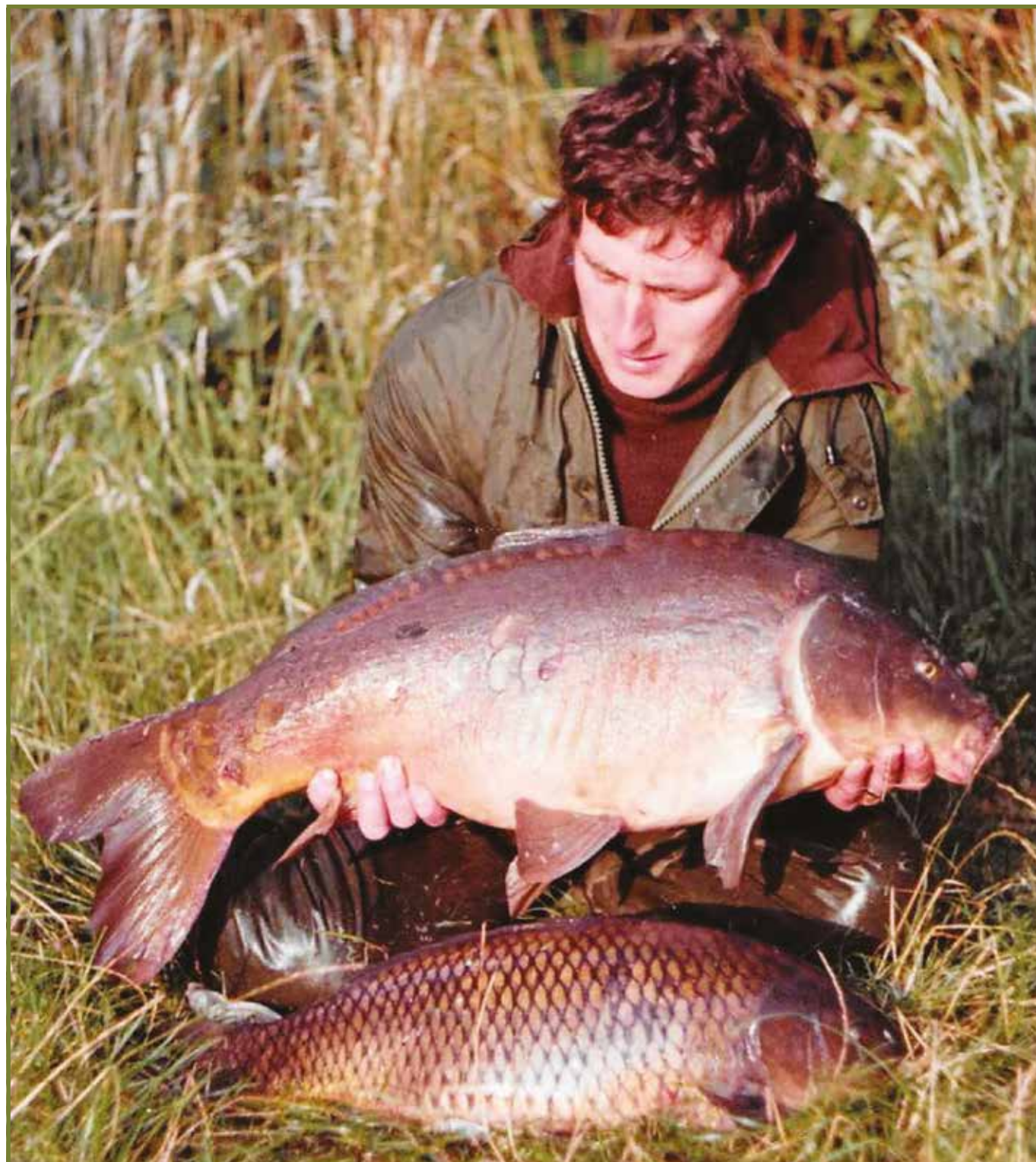
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BILL PHILLIPS

the pond, exciting ones, some funny, others scary, a few a bit naughty and some plain serious. However, I reckon I have over egged it a bit already so will close with a recommendation to all, new and old alike: try a bit of solitary intimacy with Mr. Carp – you may well fall in love.

Bill Phillips, BCSG.



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REUNION

I was introduced to Vic Gillings by my good friend and his, Bob Burchett. Bob and Vic had known each other for years from the early days of carp fishing on The Tarn pond near Farnham, and also their brotherhood of being “teddy boys” together in their teens. When I first knew them, they both still sported the classic DA hairstyle, which I remember Vic never being without.

Bob and Vic started to travel further afield, visiting, amongst other waters, the famous Billing Aquadrome where Vic managed to hook one of its residents. As Bob recalls, “We were both fishing a long, narrow channel in the week when Vic hooked a fish that went solid. As we had planned, we got into the dinghy and went after it, but on getting over the top of it, we found it had transferred the hook into the weed!”

They both shared other tales with me of their early exploits, usually whilst we were ‘freezing our parts off’ during later winter piking trips. Forgive me for sharing them here, but they still give me a good laugh. The first concerns one night fishing at a small remote lake in Surrey, when they were disturbed by something banging and crashing progressively along the bank towards them in the total darkness. Visions of something “otherworldly” came to mind as it got nearer and nearer.

Finally, in the early hours, Bob remembers looking down in time to see a large escaped pig stick its snout under the brolly! On another occasion, Vic, having an engineer’s ability to find solutions to problems, gave us all a laugh one extremely cold, wet night at the end of a pike fishing trip to the Fens. I’ll let Bob explain... “The windscreen wiper motor on Vic’s Rover 2000 failed as we were about to return home to South London. Vic threaded a length of string through the inside of the car and out of both quarter lights attaching it to the wiper blades. Steve Church, his passenger, was tasked with operating the wipers by pulling left and right all the way back to London! After these events both Bob and Steve were reported to need a change of underwear!

We all fished together on occasion, as we were all members of the ‘Pawnbrokers Specimen Group’, a slightly tongue-in-cheek association of likeminded friends. It was a lot of fun sharing time together, and we met some wonderful people both fishing and socialising. Vic sadly died suddenly in his late forties, and his fishing tackle was sold/given to his associates by his widow. Although I knew him reasonably well, we weren’t that close, so no keepsakes came my way, and by that time carp fishing was not something

in which I was involved. However, a chance conversation, whilst attempting to obtain a pair of 'old school' fibreglass rods a couple of years ago from our mutual friend, Geoff Hoad, brought an unexpected reward. Whilst Geoff was hunting through his collection, he emerged with a pair of rods in cloth bags. "Have a look at those," he said. Inspection revealed two rods bearing Vic's name and both built by the team of Bruce Ashby and Mike Harris. I left that afternoon with a pair of rods that I was originally after, together with a generous gift of one of Vic's rods as a keepsake of days gone by. Thanks again, Geoff. On further inspection at home, I found the rod, one of the renowned 'Ashby Specials', to be in great condition with only minor blemishes in the varnish and the original single-leg Fuji rings undamaged. It bore the number '6' at the spigot and Vic's name, in the unmistakable writing of Mike Harris, but



not the 'Ashby Special' name, which others examples have. I was understandably delighted and swore to take this rod out, with an appropriate reel, and to put a bend in it in Vic's name.

Time passed, and the opportunity didn't arise. However, one Sunday evening, a strange thing occurred. It's fair to say that I do trawl the pages of a well-known Internet auction site from time to time... definitely more than I should... I never look at carp rods, as I don't have that much interest these days, but that night, for some reason, I did. An item caught my eye, listed as "Pair of vintage carp rods – Sundridge 'Vic Gillings'" with a 'buy it now' price that wouldn't tax the bank account. A study of the pictures (and rods are never easy to photograph) showed two in Sundridge rod bags, and a picture of the writing on the blank. It was the same as the one I had been given! I bought them immediately.



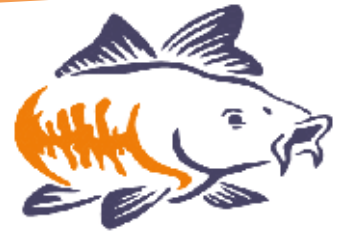
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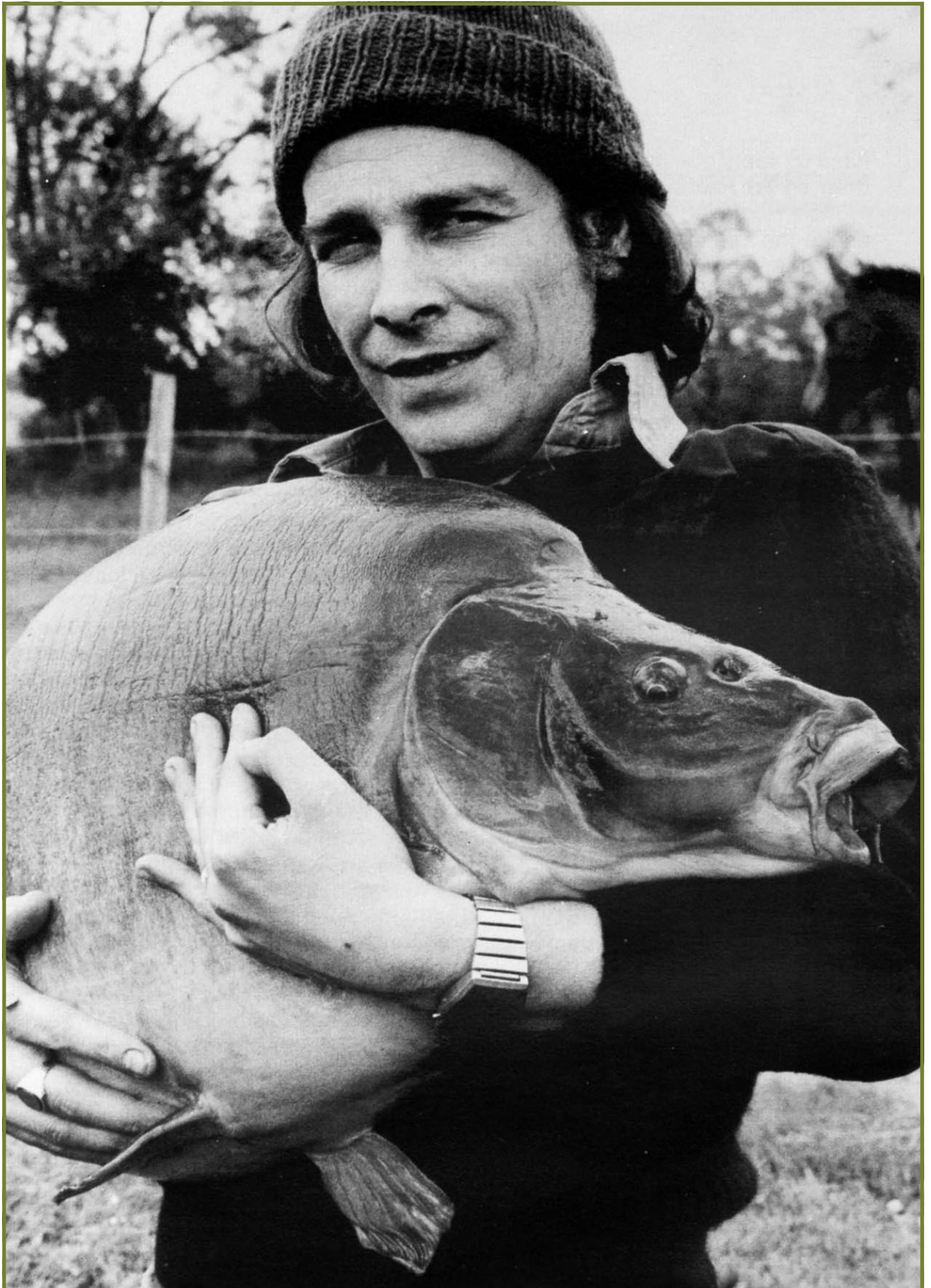
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DICK GAYNER





They duly arrived, were hastily unwrapped, and I could confirm that not only were they a pair of 'Ashby Specials' bearing Vic's name, in Mike's hand, but they were consecutively numbered. Rods 5, 6 and 7 were back together! The term serendipitous came to mind. I couldn't believe it and still don't. Just what are the chances of this happening? I should have gone out and bought a lottery ticket there and then!

The condition of this pair was not great; they had had more use, but it was purely cosmetic. I soon went about a gentle refurbishment so as not to remove the 'hands' that originally built them, not even removing the slightly bubbled vanish. The only alteration was to replace the original fly rod type tip rings, which I guess Vic had specified, with more conventional ones which are less prone to tangle when casting. One slight difference in the rods was that the whipping on the tip sections was a slightly different colour to the butts. It was not fading, and they are all the same. My guess is that Bruce whipped the tips and Mike, who also turned the cork handles, whipped the butts, and the silk didn't match, but we will never know for sure, and it just adds to their character.

So what was their history other than what we already knew? Firstly, they were what we think are the third incarnation of these rods, being slightly more powerful than the originals and six inches longer. The first of these rods were the iconic 'yellow' blanks, built by Conoflex to Bruce and Mike's specification. I have to admit that when I was shown these rods by Bruce and Mike years ago, I thought they were havin' a laugh, as they were so soft, and I mean SOFT. The rods I have, the blanks of which were also built by Conoflex but using a polyester glass system, have a slim, 30in cork handle. Interestingly they were



not a favourite of Mike Harris, as he explained in the book “Carp County”.

As with all things historic, when in doubt, consult the oracle: Chris Ball. Chris was as gushing as ever in his excitement when he handled the rods last year. Whilst we cannot be certain, we felt that given the time they were built, Vic could well have tamed his 37lb fish, known as ‘Lucky’, from Ashlea Pool on one of these three. However, a recent conversation with Bob Burchett, revealed that Vic, who caught the fish twice(!), once at 32lb, had possibly been using the even lighter yellow rods! Many of you may have seen the video and interview of Vic by Kevin Maddocks telling the story of the capture. Whatever the case, and knowing how weedy that water was at the time, it was quite an achievement on any rod of that power.

So this left one issue unresolved – to take the rods out and to put a bend in them for old time’s sake. A few times I thought about going somewhere local and catch a ‘pastie’ on one of them, but somehow it didn’t seem right. Then in May this year I had the opportunity to fish a water at the invitation of an old friend. Along with far too much tackle, I took two of these three rods along and a pair of ABU Cardinal 55s, freshly serviced by Martin Stone. Vic certainly used 55s, and that’s a story in its own right, but for brevity, we’ll skim over it here. My trip was mostly uneventful, just a pleasant opportunity to relax and chew things over with old friends during a very warm spell of weather. The fish, for the most part, were unimpressed and more concerned with procreation.

After a second, uneventful night, I found a small group of fish looking like they might be more interested in feeding. Now was the opportunity to use the Ashbys, as the range and location



DICK GAYNER

was about right. After discovering that casting with soft glass rods is a technique that I had all but lost, I eventually had baits in the right area, and thirty minutes later, I was attached to an extremely angry carp that taxed the old rod and reel to the maximum. They were not found wanting. My prize was a handsome male fish, full with spawning adrenaline, a tad under 27lbs and a battle that will certainly live long in the memory. My only sadness was that others who knew Vic were not there to witness the event. It did cross my mind, however, that three departed anglers might be having a wry smile at my expense as that fish proceeded to drag me round the pond in the most determined fashion! Now they are back together, these rods will certainly be out again in the future.





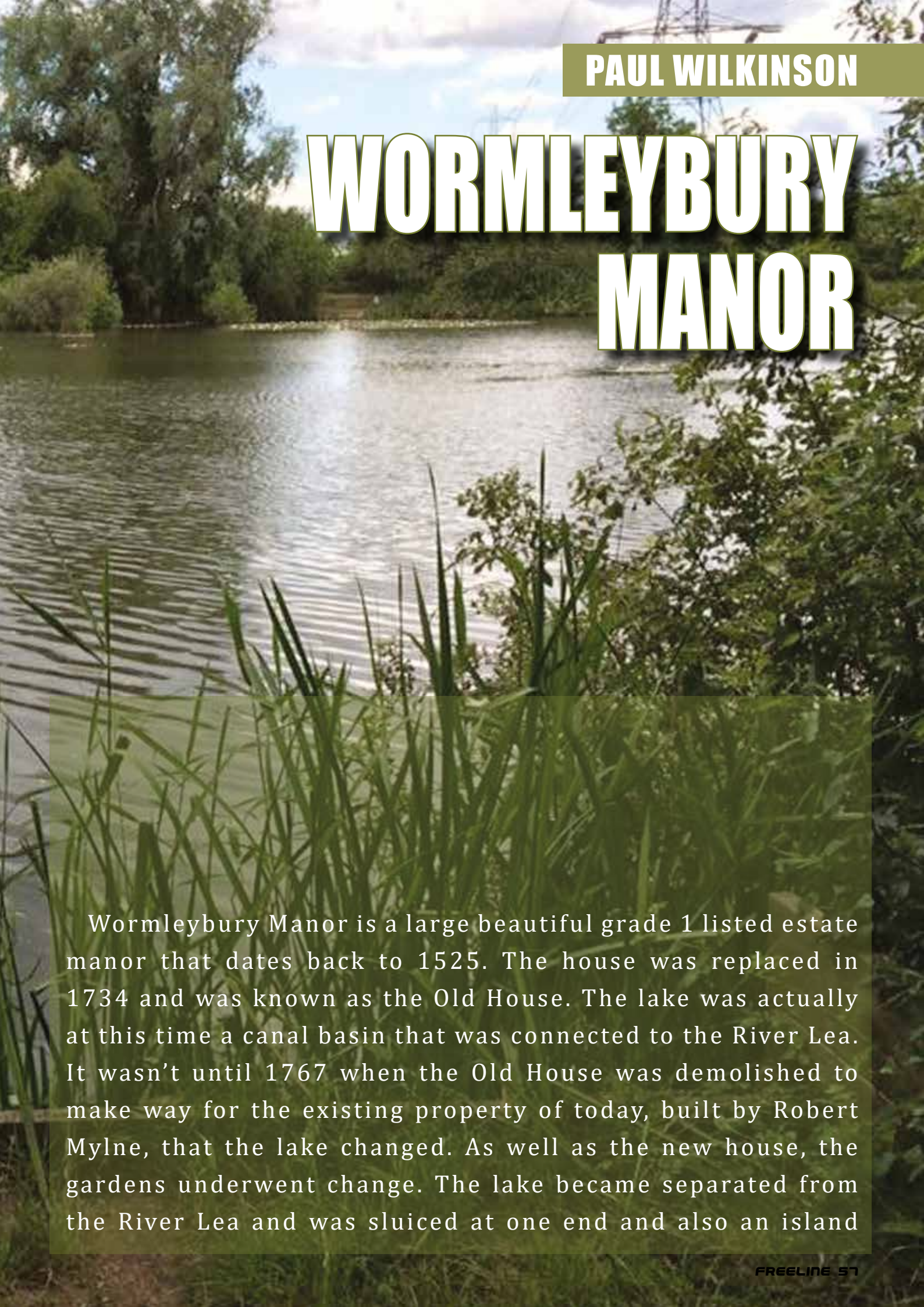
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PAUL WILKINSON

WORMLEYBURY MANOR

Wormleybury Manor is a large beautiful grade 1 listed estate manor that dates back to 1525. The house was replaced in 1734 and was known as the Old House. The lake was actually at this time a canal basin that was connected to the River Lea. It wasn't until 1767 when the Old House was demolished to make way for the existing property of today, built by Robert Mylne, that the lake changed. As well as the new house, the gardens underwent change. The lake became separated from the River Lea and was sluiced at one end and also an island

removed. The lake was a crescent shape of around five acres and at its widest point, approx. 65/70 yards. The woods on one side of the property date back to the Domesday Book and are known as Snake Wood.

Looking out from the house across the lake is a large stone urn, which is actually a cup from a horse race, won from a racehorse owned from a previous owner. The urn was erected around 1770. The house has had many owners over the years it has stood but is now owned by Graham Barnes who purchased the property in the 1960s. Graham ran the main house as a guest house to tourists for many years, and the lake was run as one very special carp syndicate up until around 1994/95 when Graham redeveloped the main house into private flats and apartments.

The syndicate at this point ceased to exist for a short time, but was opened as a day ticket fishery. The day ticket situation did not last long due to how people treated the place. There was no way Graham would allow something like this to happen in what was really his back garden. So with people abusing the place and poaching the lake at night, all fishing ceased on the lake to the public.

Around 1996/97 a good friend and a former owner of DT/Cotswold Baits, Chris Nicolau, aka Stud, received a call from Graham Barnes asking him to form a very small intimate syndicate to look after the lake and to act as security for the water to combat the poaching. The syndicate was made up of five anglers: Chris Nicolau, Phil Manuel, Robert Kirby, Jeff and Brian. In 1998, I was lucky enough to be added to the existing syndicate along with Sam Nicolau, and in 2000 there was another addition, my big brother Kevin Wilkinson.

There was also a family friend to Graham Barnes that was also allowed to fish along with the syndicate, and his name was Mark Lambourne. This made the syndicate complete with nine anglers but only allowing four anglers to fish at any one time. The cost of admission to the syndicate was 28 passport photos that were to act as ID to the syndicate members for people that were residents to the main house and the gardeners.

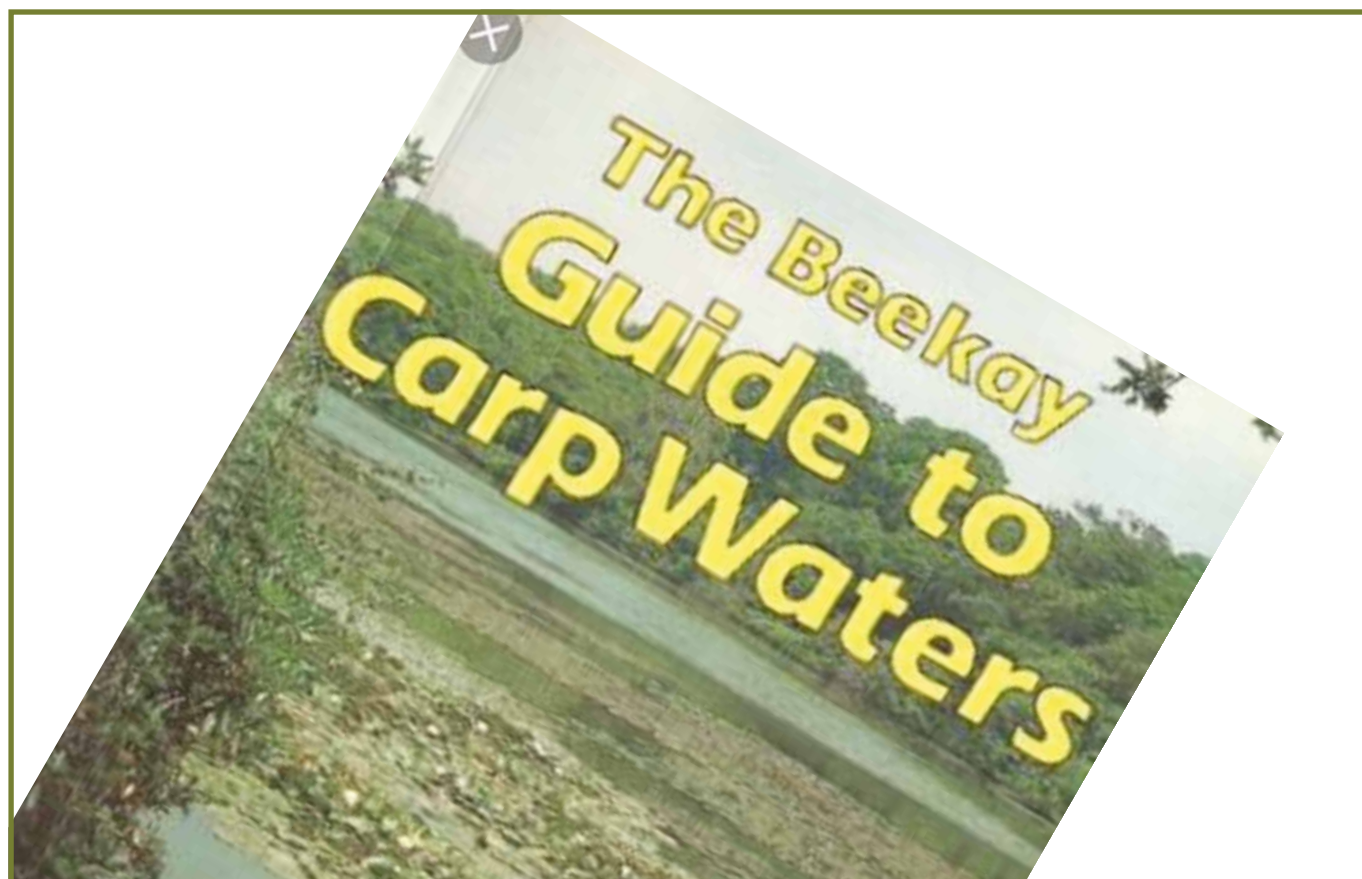
I first fished Wormleybury in 1985 when I was 14 years old. It wasn't until 1986 when I had my first Wormleybury carp, a mirror known as Two Scales at 25lb 12oz, caught from a swim known as Gertie's. My brother Kevin, that same morning... well, in fact ten minutes later, caught Fatty at 26lb. It's just a shame I haven't got a photo of that to hand of two brothers both sharing



a common interest for the love of carp for this article. That year, I went on to catch the elusive Koi Common at over 12lb and later on the jewel of the lake, Clare the Common, at 25lb 12oz on a single tiger nut from a swim known as Lee's Swim.

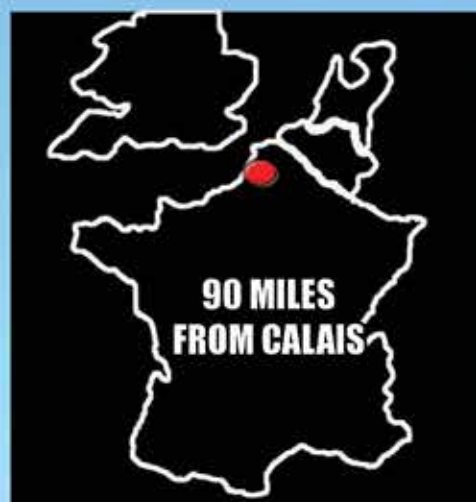
I wanted to catch Clare so much, it was unreal. I can still remember the run, the fight and what happened next – the rod ripping off, my Abu 155, handle churning, buzzer screaming and the hard solid fight that followed until she was mine in the net and that first look in the net, with heart pounding and punching the air with joy. I'm sure you've all had that moment and that feeling.

I ran up to Kev's swim, shouting, "Kev, I've got Clare!" "Yeah, right... **** off!" was his reply. So I ran up to Trever Chinnery who was set up in the Conker Tree swim. "Trev, I've got Clare!" "Yeah, right... **** off, Paul!" was his reply too. "No, mate... I really have got her; I'm not joking this time, mate!" Trev



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walked back to my swim and on the way back, Kev piped up: “Has he got it, Trev. He better had, as he woke me up!” So, with Kev in tow and back in my swim, there she was in my net, safely in the margin. “That’s Clare alright,” said Kev’s face, and his was a picture. He too wanted Clare like many others. I’ll never forget that capture – that one is locked away for the rest of my days.

Over the years, before and during my time there, there have been some great anglers, some of them very well-known and some not so, but still very good thinking anglers. The late Rob Hutchinson, Kevin Maddocks, Peter Mohan and Alan Downie have all had a go on there in the early days with Alan Downie holding the lake record mirror, a mirror named Spike at 36lbs. Kevin Maddocks described his time on there as hard work and considered it to be one of the most difficult lakes he has fished, even rating it in his Beekay Guide to Carp Waters as very difficult.

The lake is a stunning crescent shaped, like the canal it once was. Full of reeds, lilies and snags with overhanging trees, bushes and willows. The lake was around 2ft to 4ft in most places and slightly deeper through middle to 4.5ft, which was possibly an old river run. There were some gravel areas close in but generally it was extremely silty like most estate lakes with in fact 400-plus years of silt in.

Wormleybury was truly a beautiful place to be with foxes, badgers and deer roaming the forest at night. That was an experience fishing out in the woods, as it was extremely eerie and at night – that black that you could not make out anything, not even your hand. All the swims were named, and even though there were 17 or more they did not interfere with



each other, but if they did, there was that mutual respect to leave that swim be – something lacking in today’s scene – a bit of good old-fashioned carp etiquette.

I will try to remember all of the swims, and if I miss any, I am sure Stud or Phil will pick me up on it. Starting on the House Bank, the Reeds followed by the Gate Swim, the Bench, Gerties, House Willow, Lee’s Swim, Dead Tree, The Conker and Sluice, and the Field Bank leading towards the woods – Field Bank Reeds, Field Gap, the Stile. The swims in the woods were the Monument, Slugs, Woods Willow, and Pads and Gap.

I will also name the fish the best I can and most of the named fish were the result of Alan Downie, Trevor Chinnery, Chris and Phil. I also named a couple myself in later years.

Mirrors	Commons
Spike	Clare
Egor	Phil’s common (as I know it)
Lumps	The Twins (two commons)
Bumps	Long Common
Bridgette	Arthur Scargill
Paddy	Maddocks Wildie (the common that Lenny
Little Scales	Middleton tested the hair rig on)
Two Scales	The Koi
Little Two Scales	Peach Common
Son of Ygor	Houdini
Moonscale	Wildie Common
The Perch	
Woody	
Glen	
Brian’s Mirror	
The Original	
Banana Fish	

There were other mirrors that started to come through in later years that did not receive names. I named two mirrors though: Nude Mirror and another one I called Bubbles, as it had a weird bubble of skin near its gill plate.

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So we come to the season of 1999, and I arrived at the lake on June 15th around midday. The only other angler on was Big Phil. I was all gunned up to fish the Dead Tree or Gertie's. Whilst I unloaded the van and got my tackle onto the barrow, the excitement that I was back in Wormleybury after the three-month closed season was unreal. I can remember pushing the barrow through the path leading through the rhododendrons and onto the House Bank and stopping for a moment just to take the lake in. I started walking towards Gertie's and parked the barrow up and walked down to the Dead Tree, but the fish just weren't there. I went back to Gertie's, looking in the abundance of pads, and I noticed a couple of fish just sitting there. Then, crash... one went airborne. I quickly walked towards the Bench swim, and one had crashed out in the front of the Field Gap swim, a swim where Alan Downie banked the elusive Long Common, the only capture I know of this fish.

I walked around the lake and climbed a tree overlooking the main set of pads. I couldn't believe it – pretty much all the A-listers were present in the pads, a couple of them ripping away at the bottom, so that was settled! The two swims I had been baiting were blown out in favour of fishing the Bench Swim. It was better fishing the Pads and Gap from the Bench swim due to better presentation of the rigs and line lay.

Back at the swim, I got set up and rods rigged up with hinged stuff rigs with running leads on an ESP leadcore leader. I donned my chest waders and went around the other side to bait up the three spots. Big Phil turned up and went in the field under the trees, as fish were in that area too.

Later that evening, the rods went out around 21.00, as we were allowed to get our rods out before dark. I'd put at least

5kg of boilie and the same in pellet over the three areas. The night passed with no bites until 5.30am when the right hand rod melted off, with the poor Cardinal 55's clutch screaming. I hit into the fish, the water erupted, and the fish managed to get into the pads. After a bit of a tug-of-war, the fish was free and out into open water. I knew it was a good'un, as it felt heavy and was plodding about until she got into the margins, and there she was, the queen of the lake, Clare the Common, and she looked big. I had her the previous year at just over 32lbs, and she looked bigger. Phil was already walking round, and once in the swim, we lifted her out onto the mat. After

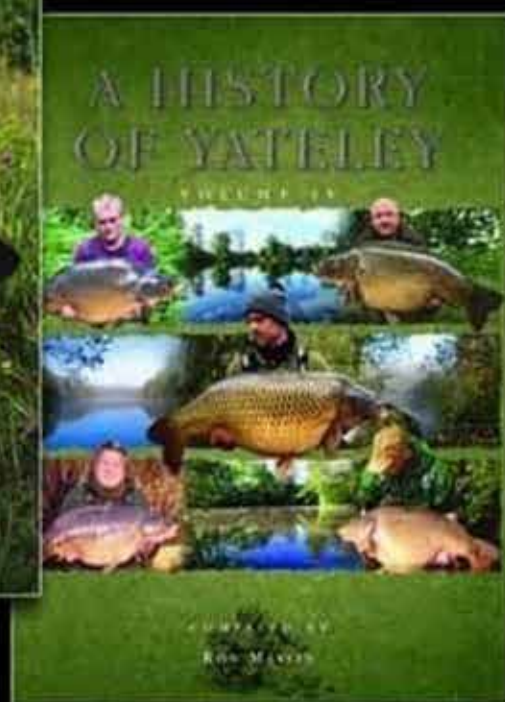
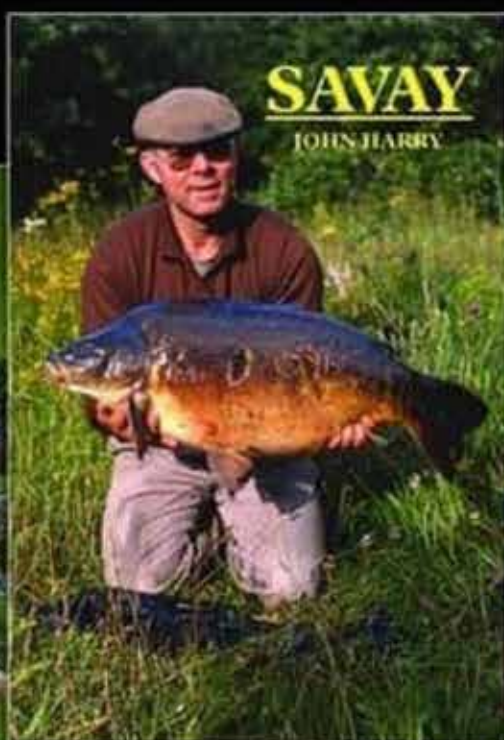
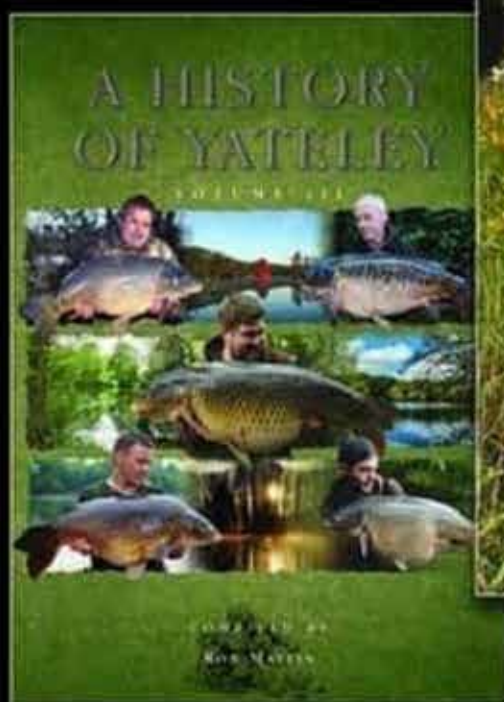
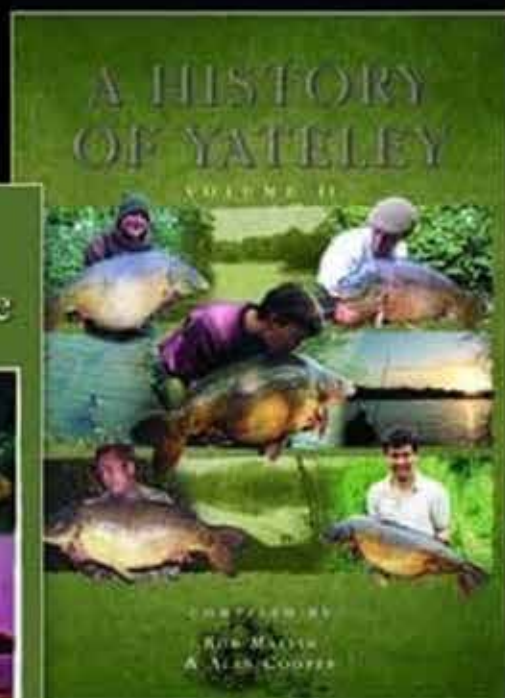
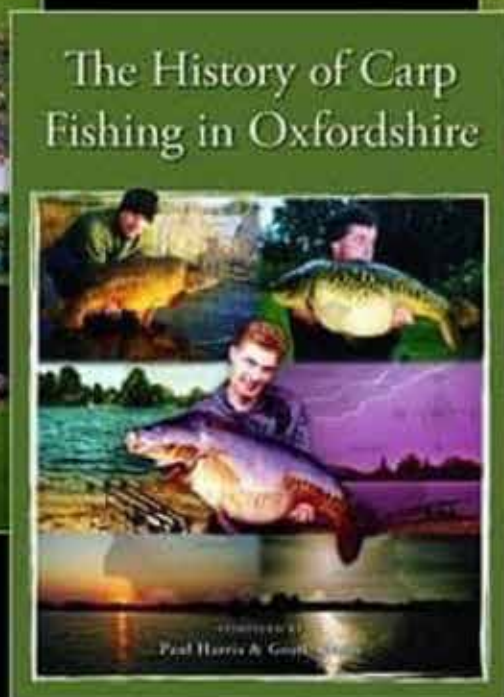
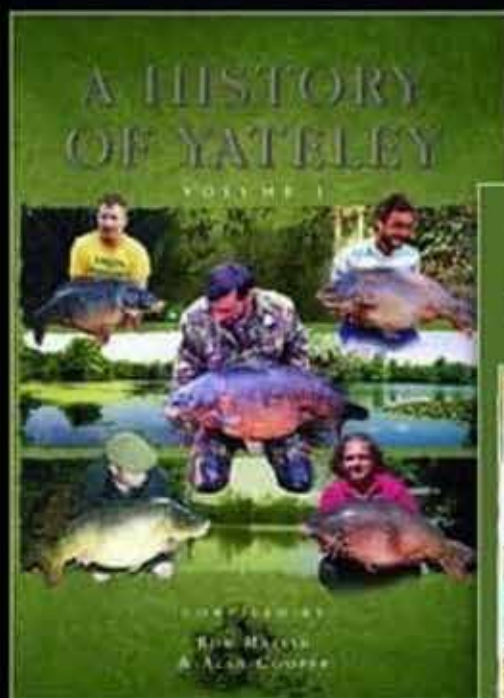


weighing, she had settled the scales at just over 35lbs. I couldn't believe it. From first catching her back in 1986, it was some 13 years later, she was over 35lbs and a new PB common and lake record common. Phil congratulated me and did the honours with the Canon, and then she was gently slipped back into her watery home.

So, June 16th, and I had bagged Clare – I felt I was floating on air. With the rod back out on the chosen spot and more bait back out there, I didn't have to wait long to have another bite. This time it was Woody, a stunning prehistoric mirror probably



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spawned from the original stock at just over 17lbs, and again, once several photos had been taken and I'd baited up again, the time had flown to around midday. Just after midday, I received another bite, and after another epic battle, another mirror lay on the mat at 25lbs. It looked like the Perch, but I was unsure, as the Perch was normally around the 30lb barrier.

I was sitting there having a brew and passing time, looking out across the lake thinking to myself, what a day of all days – June 16th. What a session! Just as the sun started melting away, turning cooler in the evening, crash... just over the middle rod, followed by a bloody great big fizz over the top of my middle rod. Before the alarm signalled, there was an almighty swirl over the area. I was on that rod quicker than a fly on shit, and I was in. This time I knew I had another big old girl, and the battle commenced. I knew by the fight what I had hooked. I was thinking I had got Ygor, and this old brute knows how to fight, believe me. Again, Phil walked around to do the honours, and the scales settled at just over 32lbs. What an unbelievable session, and I still had four nights left in front of me.

In between my bites, I did make the journey around the Phil's swim on a couple of occasions, as Phil had managed to bag Little Two Scales at 25lb-plus, and I am sure it was Maddocks' Wildie Common, just into double figures. So I am told this Wildie Common was put into Wormleybury after the much talked about testing of Lenny Middleton's hair rig. Phil said, "I might as well sit with you instead of keep walking around to you doing a David Bailey." We sat there laughing, and a short while later, I walked back to his swim. Just as he got back and looked across the lake, I was already in again. I was laughing across the lake, and back he came again. By the time I landed



the fish, it was on the last knocking of light, so I kept the fish in the net and got the rod and baited back up – sorted! Now it was time for the pictures.

At this point, I was still not aware of what I'd caught, and lifting the fish out, I thought, yes – it's another big one. Peeling back the net, Phil and I instantly recognised the culprit as Lumps, and at 33lb-plus, I was overwhelmed. Three 30s, a 20 and Little Woody all on June 16th – unreal and unheard of!

The following day, I managed a small double common for my efforts, and I'd managed to get though 10kg of pellet and almost 10kg of boilie in two days. With only 5kg of pellet and 5kg of boilie left, I thought if it kicks off again, I'll be short of boilies, so I'd better call Stud to bring over some more.

On June 18th I baited heavily, putting half of everything I



had left in but only managed another small common. I noticed some of the fish had moved from the area to the pads in front of Gertie's, so I left two rods out towards my original area and moved on to Gertie's. I baited up with the remainder of the bait, just over the back of a small hump in the margin. I left all the lines out to the rest of the areas for a couple of hours. I called Stud and said that I needed more boilie and pellet, but he had run out of pellet. He said, "I'll bring the boilies later, mate."



So I took a trip to Simpsons, and to think I had to pay Jack £20 for 10kg of pellet brought a tear to my eye. Back at the lake, I sorted out new stiff hinged rigs and plopped them back out there. The following afternoon, the rod that was close in in Gertie's swim tore off, and after a short fight, I had a chunky common in the net that I did not recognise until I found a picture of Phil holding it. I called Phil's Common. She had a long, sloping head and was in mint condition, and up on the scales she went 31lbs. I had to sack her up in the shade, as my

personal photographer, Phil, had gone home, so I called upon an old friend, Andy Jenkins, to come over to do the pictures for me. So, just a quick recap, I had seven fish over a five-day session: four 30s, one 20 and two doubles. What an opening week for me!

A couple of weeks later, I was back and raring to go and found a small group of fish held up in Gertie's pads. I decided to fish for them from the other side of the lake, fishing from the Stile swim. This would allow a better angle for line lay and for getting the fish away from the mass of pads. The bait again was Pukka Fish and pellets. Rods out and ready to go, I sat back taking in the beauty of Wormley. Looking out across the lake looking up at the Old House, all I could see was a picture postcard moment. The first night went without any activity at all, but waking up at first light, a carp crashed out of the water over my middle rod – a bloody great crash with ripples disturbing the flat calm water right across the lake. The coots were going mental. Around midday, Stud came over to say hello and to have a chat and a cuppa. As we were standing there, the middle rod was away, and I hit into a powerful fish, the lily pads exploding everywhere from one angry carp.

With the chest waders on, I was out there in the lake with the net at the ready, and around ten minutes later, after a hard battle was fought, she was in the net and looked a good weight. As I got back to dry land, I was greeted by Stud and Graham Barnes, who was passing whilst walking his dog. Once she was on the mat, Stud said, "That's the Perch – she always holds her dorsal fin up." On the scales, she went just shy of 32lbs. "Brilliant," said Graham, and after many pictures, I released her back into her watery home.



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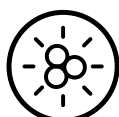


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PAUL WILKINSON





I was just getting out of the lake, and the left hand rod was away! WTF? I could hear Graham saying to Stud, “Blimey!” Once again, I was back in the lake doing battle with yet another of Wormleybury’s jewels. After another hard fight, I saw it roll for the first time, and without any doubt I knew what I had on. It was the awesome Moonscale, which was an extremely rare visitor to the bank. Once on the scales, she pulled the needle around to 28lb 14oz, which is the biggest I have known her to be, and this was only her fifth capture at the time. Stud and Graham were both congratulating me on my brace, which was all inside of 40 minutes. The rest of the session passed without any further action, but that didn’t bother me in the slightest. Over the next two months, I managed another five fish, a couple of repeats and a new common of 25lb-plus, which was another original from original stock that I christened Bubble, and she weighed in at 23lbs.

I returned in mid-September after having a little break, and on my first session back, again fishing from the Stile swim, I managed to bank a fish that I knew as Brian’s Fish at over 26bs. Back at the lake the following week and after a good look around, I noticed the conker tree bobbing up and down! I shot round the lake into the woods and as silent as I could be climbed up the trunk of the tree that sloped out over the lake. Light levels of the water were not great, but once above the branch that drapes out into the lake, I saw a couple of fish rubbing themselves up on the branch., hence why we call that swim the Conker. If the fish were there, that branch always moved.

So with my home set up and rods out for the weekend, it was perfect, and what more could I ask for? With my confidence



zooming through the roof from my previous visits, I knew I wouldn't blank. The first night passed without a sniff. On the Saturday, Stud came over to do a night. I wanted to get my bait just round the back of a bush, but a branch stopped this from happening. Just another foot or so from fishing in some real shitty silt to gravel, it had to be done. Stud had his bait boat and kindly put my bait right where I wanted it. Saturday night passed with no action, and I wasn't thinking of my first blank. By midday the sun was up, and it was bloody hot, so I thought I'd call it a day. After packing up the home, I laid my rods down and started packing away my buzzers. Stud was stood by talking as I was packing up, and just as I looked around, a massive bow wave moved off the bush, followed by my rod pulling round on the deck! Bang... I was in! After an



epic battle, a mint of a common lay in my net. On the scales she went over 28lbs, and I named her the Peach. Stud took the pics, and away she went. A blank was therefore saved by just moving the hook bait no more than a couple of feet, and the boat came in handy. I left one happy bunny. So from June to September, I hadn't blanked once.

In October, I only managed two sessions, and the first was a blank. On the second I had an unknown mirror, and I named her the Nude Mirror, almost a leather with just a small amount near its wrist and one at the top of its gill plate, and that went 22lbs

I stopped fishing after my last session in October, drifting over to another small pit for November and December, but it was the beginning of February 2000 before I was walking the banks of Wormleybury again. I headed for the Dead Tree swim, an area which was always a good choice for a winter

bite if you could get one that is. The bait was still Pukka Fish, just removing the salmon oil, but I was glugging the bait with DNA lactose and letting them dry. The bait used to look like it had loads of dry crystals over it once the DNA had set, but once in the water, each individual bait came to life.

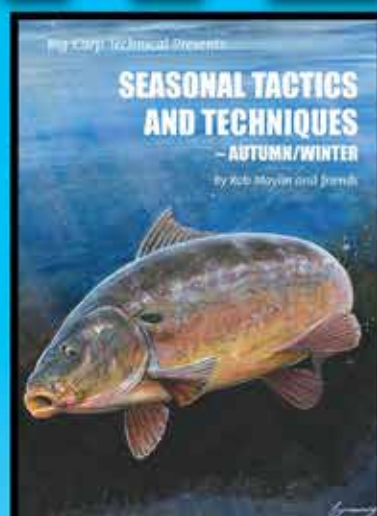
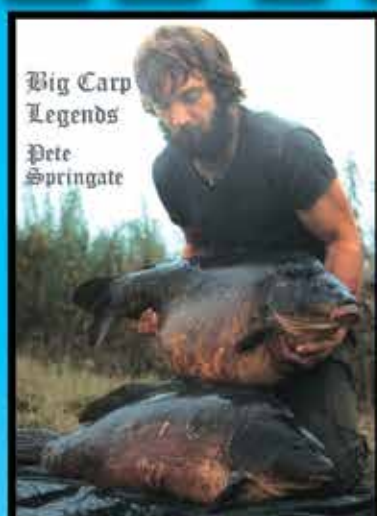
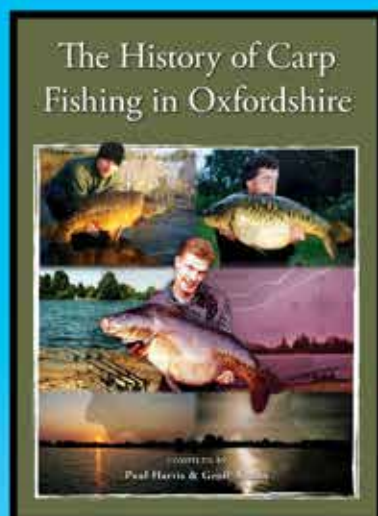
I cast out to the usual spots, around 30 baits were plopped in the swim, and I was back and loving it. The rigs that I was using for my winter fishing were basically what everyone now calls the chod! On my second night, I managed a fish that I photographed for Phil earlier in the season, a real old looking warrior called Little Two Scales, and she went 29lbs 14oz. I was absolutely made up, and my brother Mick came over to photograph that one. That was my last fish of the season, and what an unbelievable season it was too – memories for a lifetime.

I hope you the readers have enjoyed reading this as much as I have writing it. I would also like to thank my brother Kevin for getting me into carp fishing at the tender age of ten years old, and some 37 years later, I'm still at it. I would also like to thank Chris Nicoloau for allowing me to become a member of the syndicate again back in 1998, and cheers to Studly and also to Rob Maylin for asking me to write another old school article for yet another iconic mag dedicated to the memory of the late Rod Hutchinson.

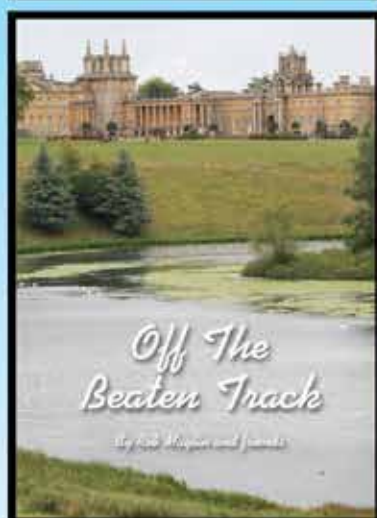
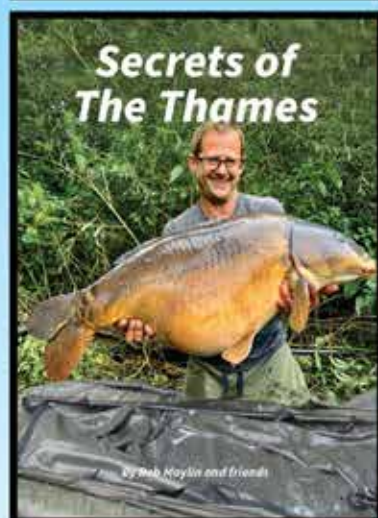
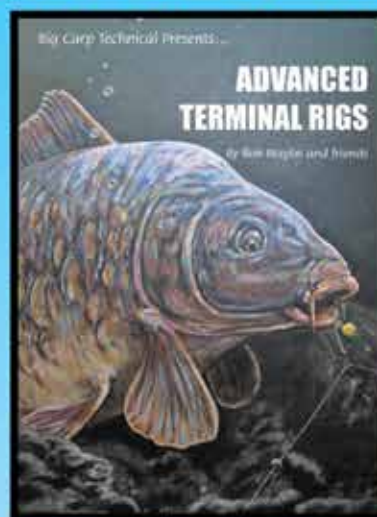
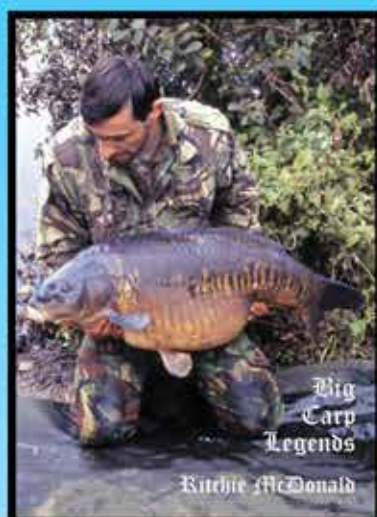
I would like to dedicate this article to Graham Barnes who was an absolute legend. Without him allowing me on Wormleybury, this incredible season of 1999 would never have happened. Graham sadly passed away this year, and Wormleybury Manor will never be the same without you.

RIP, Graham.

WINTER



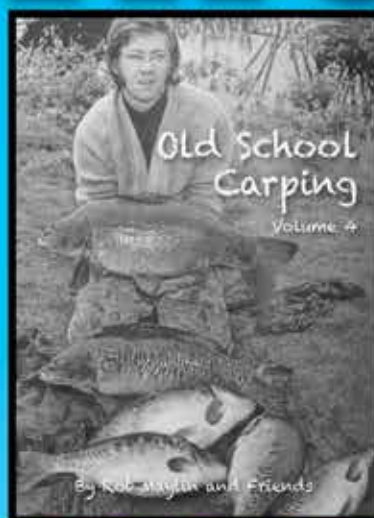
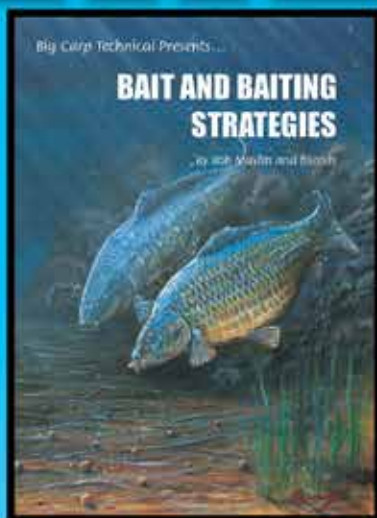
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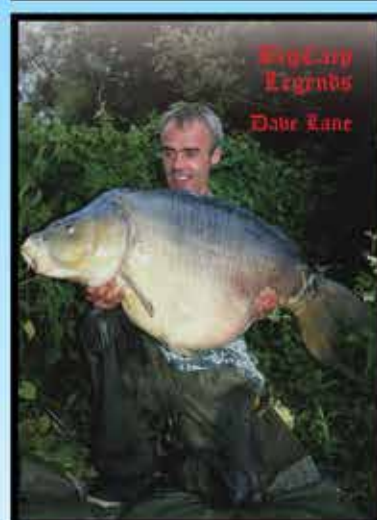
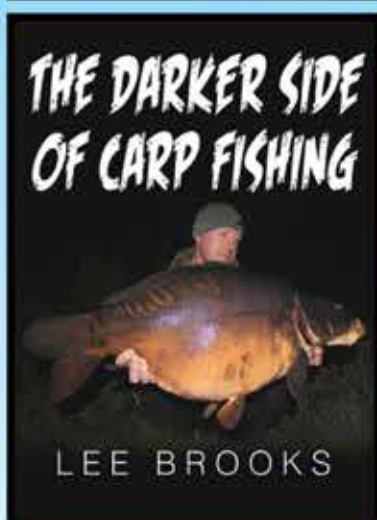
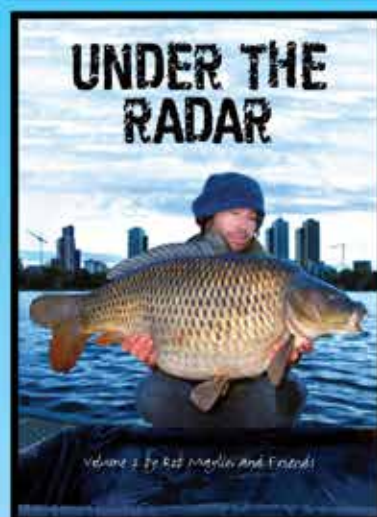
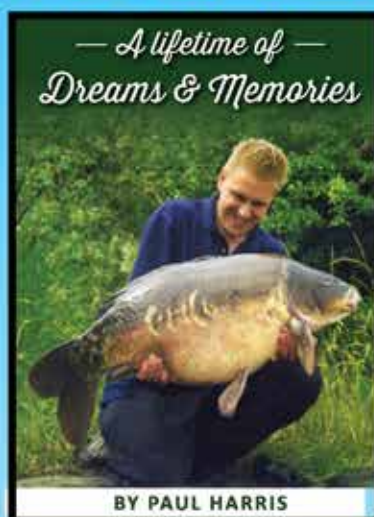
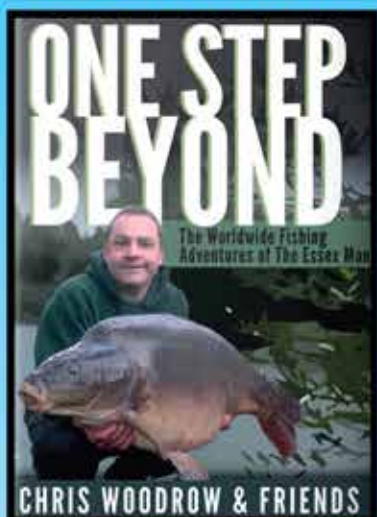
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WHERE LEGENDS HAVE TRODDEN

Out there in the darkness, the monsters had been on the move. Huge crashes in the dead of night had disturbed me on and off from my slumber. I was set up in the most famous spot on the small three-acre water, the Willow Pitch. The mist was slowly clearing, and as I glanced over to my right, I could just make out the ancient oak rail running the length of the dam. Jack Hilton was set up on the far bank fishing up towards the shallows in the 35 Pitch, and Bill Quinlan was across the pool in the Evening Pitch, a spot near where the old boathouse once stood... It was the perfect carp fisher's morn.

Suddenly Jack called out, hidden by the mist. He was into a fish and needed some assistance. The 35 Pitch was tight with willows on both sides and a swamp to the right. I throw the old army blanket off and I shoot across the dam as fast as I can, rounding the outfall and then passing Bill in the Evening Pitch

who was still trying to find his teeth!! Getting to Greenbanks and dodging round Bowskill's Tree, I could just make Jack out further up the pool in that famous green knitted jumper and two-tone bobble hat. He was crouched under a willow, rod in full battle curve. I was soon by his side... "It's a good'un, Rich," he said with a twinkle in his eye and that wry smile as he played the fish 'keggy handed' as we say up north (left handed). Soon Bill was on the scene wearing his trademark checked flat cap. He quickly climbed a nearby tree for a better look and to inform us, "It's definitely a good'un." Jack was still in his familiar carpet slippers, so I quickly picked up his waders and put them on, grabbing hold of his net at the same time (the one with fish he'd caught recorded on the handle), and I slipped quietly into the 'Mire...

By now the carp had been coaxed closer to us by Jack's expertise when Bill shouted,

"It's that 4ft long common, Hilti! I can see it's as plain as day!!" Jack kept his cool as the fish came closer, within touching distance now, and I could see it was big... no, HUGE! It had definitely got the beating of Walker's record by a good 15 if not 20lbs. My heart was racing as I stretched out the waiting net, and the fish slid straight in... Jack shouted, "LIFT!"

"RING" RING" RING"... The bloody alarm clock woke me up. "Why does that always happen?" I thought, as I dragged myself downstairs to get ready for work. I'd just left school a few weeks ago and got a job as an apprentice bricklayer. We were pointing an old glass kiln up for the National Trust – no health and safety in those days. I was just sat on an old scaffolding batting 200ft up, no harness or anything. That didn't really bother me though... my main concern was how I could wangle

a few weeks off work. September was fast approaching, and I knew this to be the best time in the carping calendar to catch a big'un.

Things were also looking up on the transport front. I'd passed my driving test a few months earlier and my grandparents had been good enough to buy me my first car – the biggest scrap heap on wheels this side of Barnsley, an old Escort van I christened Clarissa for obvious reasons. For years during the week I would run down to the newsagent for the Times and Mail. Jack Hilton had written for both in those days, and I didn't want to miss his articles or anything on carp fishing at that time. I used to cut all things carpy out of the weeklies and pin them on my bedroom wall, and by the time I was 17,

24 ANGLING TIMES THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 1973

WINTER CARP SOON LEARN THE TRICKS OF THE TRADE!

by Jack Hilton

THERE has been lots of talk from carp men about their winter carping experiences. The general opinion has been that with the exceptionally mild winter most carp have been caught than in winters past. There seems no reason to doubt this. Looking through reports of capture in the angling press, hardly a week passed without news of a carp being caught somewhere, or other. My own experiences this winter would have been nothing to go by, for my carping consisted of just one blank day. But the trip was interesting none-the-less. To tell you about it I must go back to the winter of 1971. Then I wanted to catch a big winter carp more than anything else.

TWO LOST

I'd already taken an 18-pounder from Ashlea Pool, and on that same day Bill Quinlan and I had both hooked and lost a carp each that we knew to be around the 30 lb mark. These fish had been found lying in the branches of a sunken tree that lay in the margins in 4 ft of crystal clear water. At first we fished for them from a fairly safe distance, casting along the bank close to the snags. But with no bites coming that way we decided to go right on top of the carp, just lowering the hookbait between the sunken branches and literally hanging from the rod top.

The carp feeling safe in their winter retreat were more than willing to accept a bait, even though at the time the margins were ice covered. The following winter, wanting another crack at some large carp without the 200-odd mile round trip to Ashlea, I thought of waters which would have similar features. I wanted a water known to hold carp at least over 20 lb — possibly 30 lb. I wanted clear not too deep water. I saw no future in fishing a large deep murky lake where the carp couldn't be seen.

Such places could be near impossible during the summer months if the carp were big and difficult to tempt anyway. In winter it could well be impossible. The final choice would need to have a replica of the Ashlea sunken tree snag. I was convinced that carp would hole up in such a place for the comparatively inactive winter months. Suddenly I hit upon it — Jim Eggett's lake in Huntingdonshire. Imagine my joy when on the very first visit I found

big carp moving in the branches of two sunken trees! After only a few daytime visits I'd caught three carp between 17 lb and 24 lb 10 oz; hooked one that smashed my rod in three places before breaking 23 lb line and saw a 30 lb plus fish break free when the branch I was standing on snapped, putting me up to my armpits in freezing water. I learnt more about the feeding habits and craftiness of big carp in those few visits than in months or even years of conventional summer carp fishing. Those fish would come time

and time to the bottom fished bait, flick their tails at it, suck it to their lips without actually mouthing it, blow at it. This would continue for hour after hour. Always, the first carp to spot the bait seemed to put his mark on it. From then on it was his to do as he liked — play with it, reject it or eat it. No matter how many other carp came near the bait, each in turn would ignore it. The last carp I hooked there took over five hours of playing around before finally deciding to take the bait in its mouth. That's a long time when the bait is ordinary bread flakes! It had to be squeezed on the hook

shank to such a consistency to last at least till the onset of daylight for fear of it breaking up. That would have meant a recent and another five hours wait. This winter I returned. From the state of the bank I knew many other anglers had followed where I first trod. After an hour or so of peering into the clear water, climbing trees for a better look round, I finally took the boat out. Drifting along in front of the trees I spotted carp straight away — and from what I saw they were the same old fish. Disturbed by the boat, they drifted in under the branches where I'd found them two winters before, and lay there motionless. But no matter how careful I was to return to my rods and after mooring the boat quite a way off along the bank — they wouldn't stay for more than about half an hour. Out in the boat I came the carps back on the bank, out went the carp! Obviously these carp had learnt the dangers of moving in under the snags whilst someone was fishing for them from the bank. Yet only two winter back when I hooked a big there, it's companions felt safe they never even moved while the fish was being played. Who says carp don't learn?

Remember this picture? It shows Jack fishing a spot where he had some good winter carp. A place like this poses many problems but there is one good thing about it — it won't get crowded with other anglers.

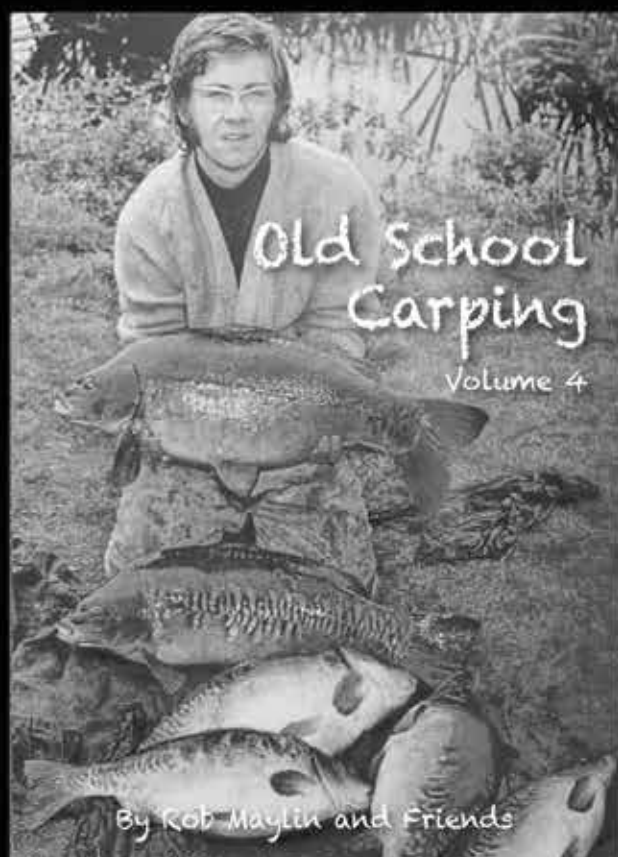
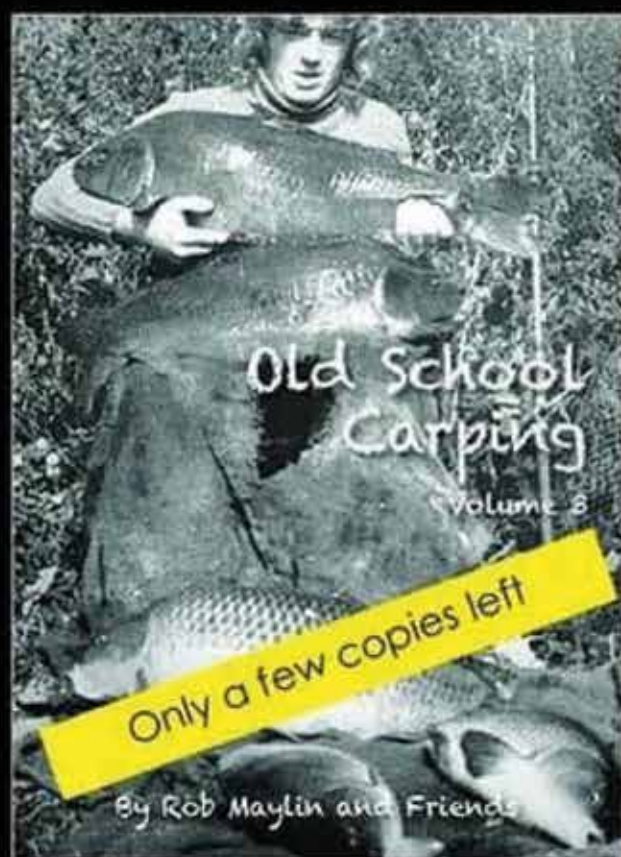
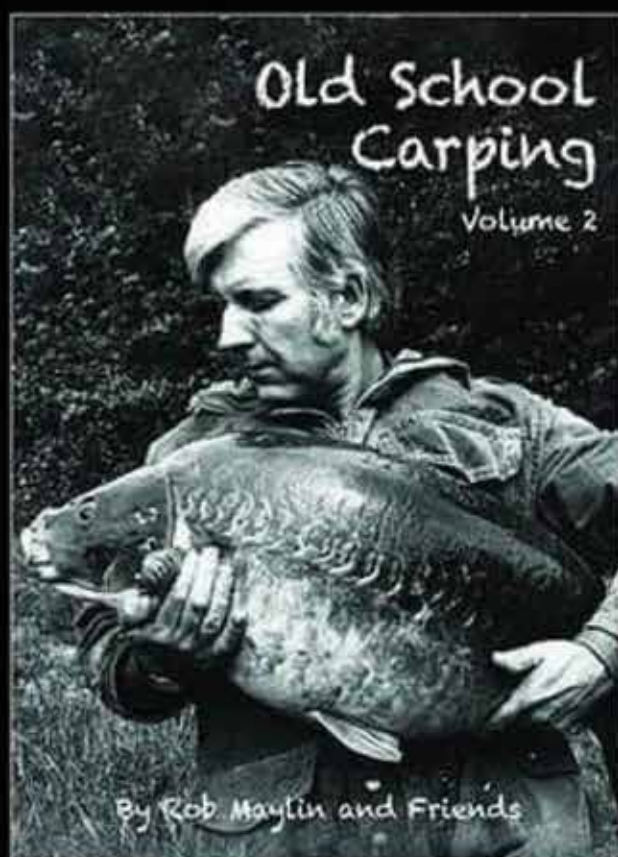
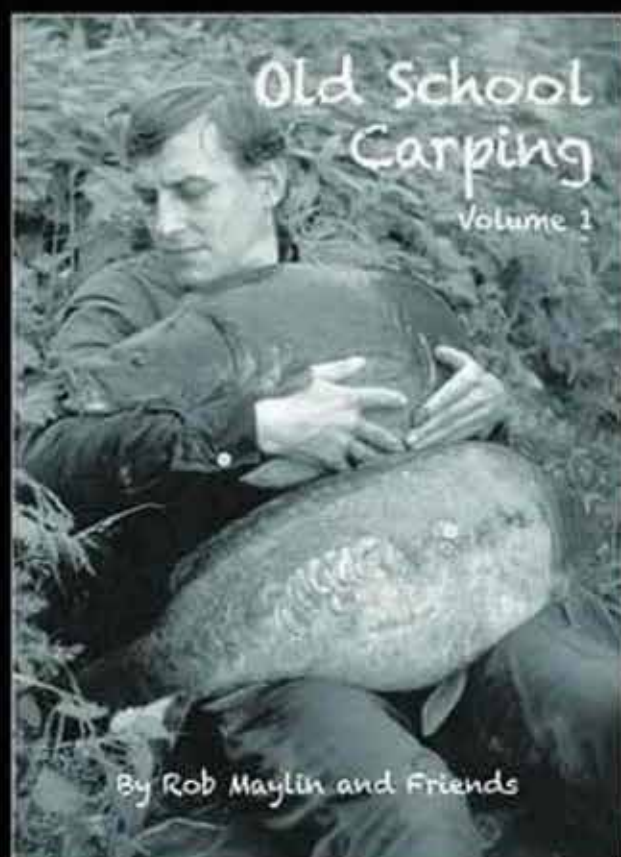
eggett, Woburn Close, Meadow Lane, mbs.

the walls were covered. I could nearly recite all the articles off by heart, word for word... “As the car rolled over the cattle grid...” etc etc (only Redmire buffs would understand what that means).

So Chris, my old fishing pal, and I decided it was time, now I had transport, to venture further afield to try and catch a big’un, and by that we meant a fish over the usual mid-doubles we were catching from the local ponds. As the time got closer to our planned trip, we were trying to decide where to go. I was looking at the cuttings on my bedroom wall, and one stuck out. It was a Jack Hilton article, and the headline read, “Winter Carp Soon Learn The Tricks Of The Trade.” The venue was around 120 miles away, and not only that – Jack had fished there only two years before in 1971.



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Brought to prominence in the 60s by Bill Keal, Eggett's seemed the ideal venue. It would be the first gravel pit we had fished, and if old Clarissa the van could make it down there, we might be in with a chance of catching The Elephant, a fish named by Jack's friend Dave Carter when he saw it in the snag trees a few years earlier. It must be very hard for the youngsters of today to imagine how exciting it used to be back then. Nowadays the lakes are all mapped out, the fish stocks are well known (so many wraps to this or that spot) and swims made to measure for the latest bivvies etc etc.

We set off on September 8th. The reason for this was our nine-day stint would coincide with September 13th, the day Walker caught the record in 1952... Surely a good omen?

The journey down was a nightmare. We were pulled over by the Cambridge police on the A14 for going too fast in monsoon-like conditions. I also got a ticket for a bald tyre, and old Clarissa leaked like a sieve. Still, it didn't dampen our enthusiasm as we pulled into Jim Eggett's driveway, and all we could think about was monster carp. Jim was a little uneasy at first about giving us permission to fish. He'd had trouble from "young yobs" before, as he put it. Jim was an old man back then, or he looked it to us. He didn't need the money and was on the verge of telling us we couldn't fish when for some reason I just pulled Bill Keal's and Jack Hilton's names out in our conversation. Jim's attitude changed, and he relented. He even gave us a boat to transport our gear round the lake for the nine days. We had the lake to ourselves, and surely the Elephant had no chance?

We loaded the mountain of gear in the boat, said our farewell to Clarissa and set off across to the Hilton Snags for a look.



We saw nothing that first afternoon, but what a place Eggett's was. Weeping Willows dotted around the bank, nice islands with lovely gravel bars running from one Island to another around 4ft deep on the tops of the bars – perfect carp feeding spots... or so we thought.

The days raced by, and Jim pedaling his bike off to feed his pigs morning and evening with that old grey rain mac blowing in the wind that he used to wear come rain or shine became a familiar sight. It got me thinking of different lifestyles people lead. I bet old Jim had never seen a glass kiln or been down the pit.

After a few days with no fish spotted, we decided to move swims to a spot where a fence separated another lake that ran down one side of Eggett's. The lake was called Copley's, and it was whilst talking to another lone carp angler at the fence

that we were told about sweetcorn as a bait for carp. The few lads who fished Copley's had been catching lots of fish on corn that year, mostly doubles, but with the odd 20-pounder thrown in... 20-pounder!!! He gave us a tin to try...

Our diet for the whole nine days consisted of spam, eggs, tomatoes, Cornflakes, tea bags, Marvel milk and lake water, and because of the tins of tomatoes, we had a can opener to open the corn. Drifting around that afternoon, we found some nice gravel bars just out from our new pitch within casting range, around 30 yards out, as the biggest leads we had in those days were 1oz, and we never thought of dropping the hook baits from the boat! However, we did scatter a few handfuls of the golden grains on the bars from the boat ready for the evening. It was now September 12th!

The following morning, just as Jim had gone past to feed the pigs, the old Heron spluttered into life and kept on spluttering even when I had lifted the rod and hooked into a fast moving fish. I gave the buzzer a gentle kick to stop it squawking. The silver paper was jammed in the butt ring, and I gently unfolded it and it fell to the floor. Soon though, the fish had run out of steam and was no match for the 17lb BS line we were using and was scooped up in our oversized wooden constructed landing net... a bloody great tench! Still, it had the heart racing for a bit. Years before, a tench of 9lb 1oz from Eggett's held the British record, and this fish I had in the net was big. However, back in the day, when you were carping, all other species were just unhooked and released; they were classed as a lucky capture. Chris and I have speculated over the intervening years how big that tench was. It might even have been the same one that had held the record in 1963, but we shall never know.



After that flurry of excitement, things went quiet again. I kept going across to the Hilton Snags for a look, and towards the end of our trip, Eggett's gave us a glimpse of a few of its inhabitants. There, only a few feet from the bank, in the thickest jungle of branches, was the Elephant, dwarfing the other three fish that were with it, and they must have been low 20 pounds. It was the biggest carp I had ever seen. Jack had said it was 30lbs, so it must have been as far as I was concerned. To me, a young, gangly 17-year-old, it looked uncatchable in its lair.

RICHARD SKIDMORE

“How did Jack do it?” I thought.

We waved goodbye to Eggetts a few days later. As we drifted the boat back over to the real world, we said our farewells to Jim who actually invited us back down whenever we liked. He had been keeping his eye on us throughout the trip and could see we were just mad keen. We bundled all our gear in Clarissa, cleared off all the old leaves and twigs that had fallen on her over the nine days, wound the window down to say goodbye to Jim, turned the key and the bloody engine wouldn't start!

Unbeknown to us at that time, the Elephant had been caught at 31lbs by Ray Jones who actually fished Harlesthorne Dam,



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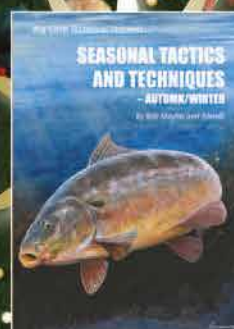
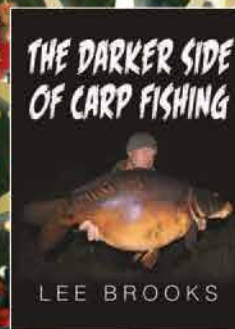
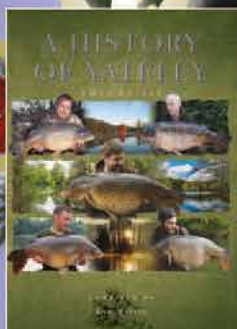
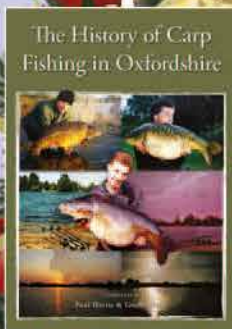
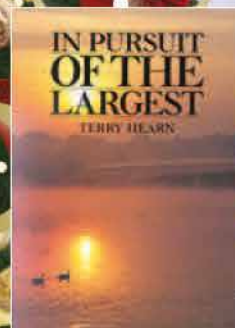
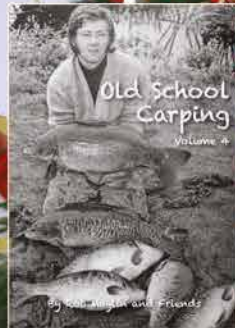
Under the Radar Volume 2

In Pursuit of the Largest

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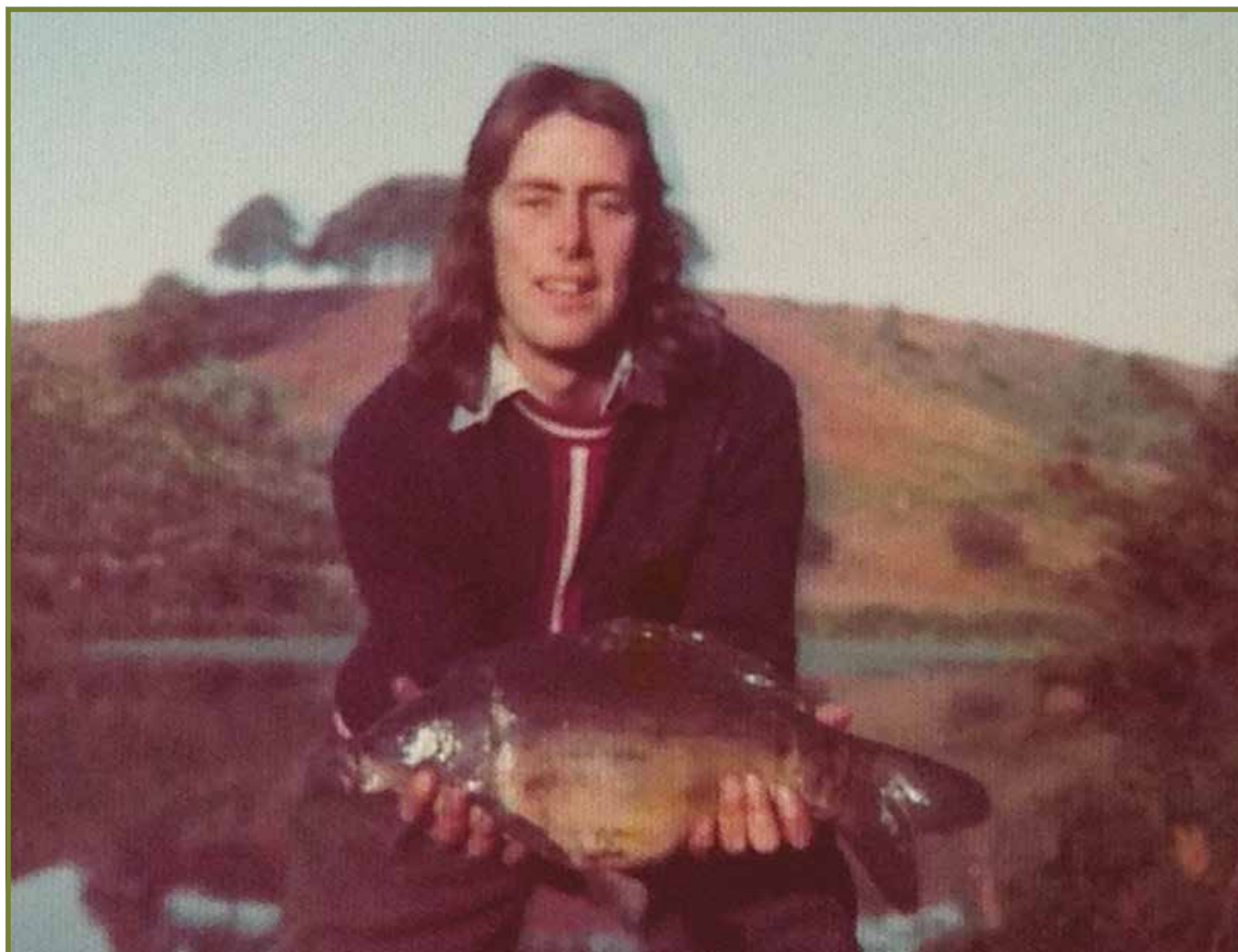
one of our local waters. I met him one year later whilst fishing Harlesthorne in the Orchard swim, and he told me the story of his capture. Returning home, I couldn't wait to try out the new wonder bait, corn, at my local ponds. Up to that point, for the previous few years, floating crust, worms and banana paste (made up to Bob Reynolds' Billing recipe) had been the order of the day, plus if there was any Spam left over from breakfast, that went on the hook.

First session with corn, I had three fish, which is more than we used to get in a month's fishing, and it got better... A simple link leger with three grains on a size 4 hook was the winning method, and what wonderful catches I experienced



during those few years when I had corn to myself on the lakes I fished. So that first trip to Eggett's had certainly paid off for me in the long run. We had other trips down there and to Billing Aquadrome during those early years, but I never saw the Elephant in Hilton Snags again.

Writing this short feature for Rob has brought back many fond memories for me of the inadequate gear we used in those days: camp beds with doggy ratchets, buzzers that worked when they shouldn't, no sleeping bags, only a pile of old army blankets, damp leaky waders and Thermos flasks that went cold after four hours... We roughed it back then, but we were keen, and the excitement of catching a monster overrode the



discomfort on the bankside. I'm glad to say I'm still out there catching a few. The old heart still skips a beat when the very reliable buzzers of today sound, and my waders don't leak anymore, but unfortunately I now know what I'm fishing for. The mystery has gone, and that to me is what carp fishing was all about.

The better half has just brought me a final cuppa... It's bedtime now, and the gear is in the back of my relatively new van ready for tomorrow. As I snuggle down under the duvet, I reach out for the alarm clock. I decide on this occasion to switch it off, as there's some unfinished business... Now, let's see... Where was I? Oh yes, old Jack had just shouted, "LIFT!"

Goodnight, everybody.

ANGLERS: STAY SAFE FROM CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING



Carbon monoxide (CO) is a silent killer - It's invisible, odourless, and deadly.

COMMON SOURCES AT THE BANK:

- Portable gas heaters
- BBQs and camping stoves
- Petrol generators
- Gas lanterns used inside bivvies or tents



NEVER DO THIS:

- ✗ Use fuel-burning equipment inside your bivvy
- ✗ Sleep with a BBQ or heater still warm inside your shelter
- ✗ Block air vents or close yourself in tight spaces

ALWAYS DO THIS:

- ✓ Use heaters and stoves outside, in open air
- ✓ Ensure your bivvy is well-ventilated
- ✓ Carry a portable CO alarm
- ✓ Learn the signs of CO poisoning

KNOW THE SYMPTOMS:

- Headaches
- Dizziness
- Nausea or vomiting
- Confusion
- Collapse or loss of consciousness

If you feel unwell, get into fresh air immediately and call 999.

"It won't happen to me..." Too many anglers last thought.

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