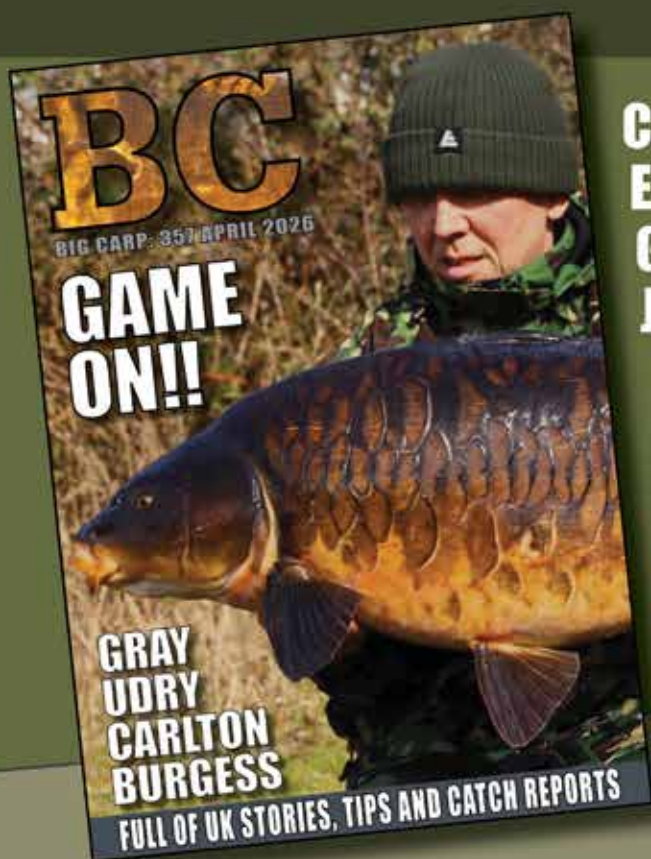


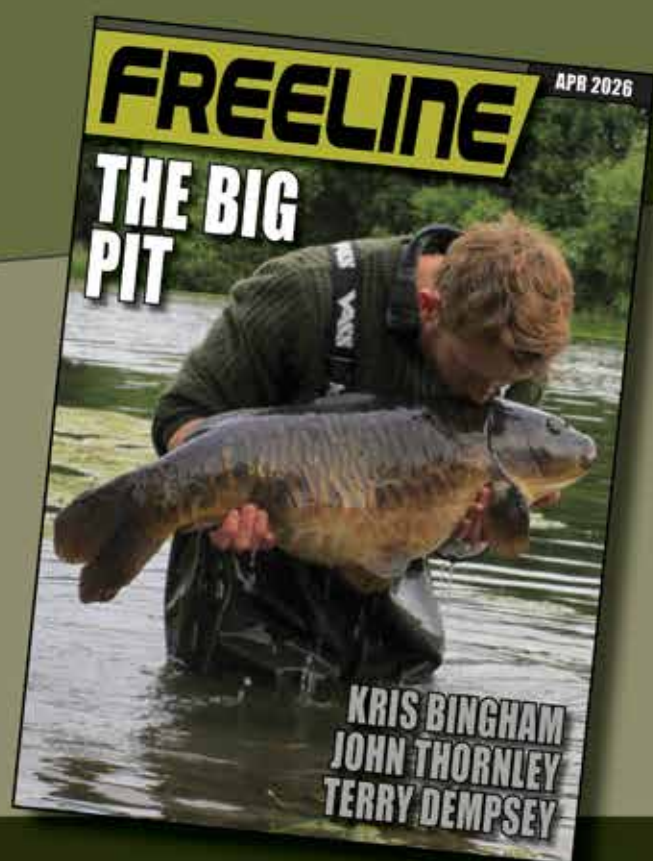
APRIL ISSUES OF BIG CARP & FREELINE MAGAZINES - FREE HERE:

www.freelinemagazine.com
or www.freelinemagazine.co.uk



CARL UDRY - THE READING FULLY
ELLIOTT GRAY - MATCH THE HATCH
GARRY CARLTON - THE TWO COMMONS
JONNY OLD - THE DREAM SESSION

KRIS BINGHAM - LESS XBOX
JOHN THORNLEY - RINGSTEAD
TERRY DEMPSEY - URBAN MYTHS
THOMAS ROSSITER - THE BIG PIT



ADVERTISING AT REALISTIC PRICES
info@bigcarpmagazine.co.uk

Over 45,650 email subscribers

BIG CARP READERS TOP TENS !!

TOP 10 DAY TICKET CARP WATERS

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

TOP 10 FRENCH HOLIDAY VENUES

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

TOP 10 BAIT COMPANIES

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



TOP 10 END TACKLE COMPANIES

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

TOP 10 CARP FISHING BRANDS

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

TOP 10 CARP TACKLE SHOPS

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

TOP 10 ICONIC CARP LAKES

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

BC

BIG CARP: 357 APRIL 2026

GAME ON!!

**GRAY
UDRY
CARLTON
BURGESS**

FULL OF UK STORIES, TIPS AND CATCH REPORTS



BIG CARP

fine arts
presents

WATERCOLOUR CARP PAINTINGS

The Legendary Big Carp Series



Burghfield Common

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Price £25.00 plus £8.00 Recorded Delivery and tube.

**<https://www.ebay.co.uk/usr/rarecarpbooksunlimited>
www.carpbooksonline.com**

TACKLE FEST

9AM - 3PM FREE PARKING FREE ENTRY

**MAY
23RD
GRANTHAM**

THE ORIGINAL JONNY BOY

FREE WHIP
KITS FOR
40 KIDS



FREE GOODY
BAGS FOR
FIRST 200



RGBaits
CC MOORE



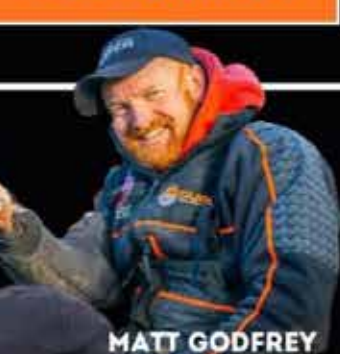
TOM MAKER



JULIAN CUNDIFF



FRANK 'THE TANK'



MATT GODFREY

COME AND SEE:

KORDA FOX NASH

CC MOORE okuma Wychwood

GURU Rapala RGBaits

STICKY COMMANDO MAP

fjuka ELEVATE DYNAMITE EVOLVE

AOMIC AGITATOR mainline



THE GINGER FISHERMAN

10% OFF



SCAN ME

CONTENTS

Editor/Publisher
Rob Maylin
Bountyhunter
Publications
44 Herbs End
Cove, Hampshire
GU14 9YD

07768 731425
info@bigcarpmagazine.
co.uk

Design & Production
James Harrison

Advertising Sales
Bountyhunter
Publications
mobile 07768 731425

BIG CARP 357:
April 2026
Not to be stored or
reproduced by any means,
in any form, without the
written permission of
the publisher. Failure
to obtain permission to
reproduce material may
result in legal action.
Articles that appear in Big
Carp Magazine are the
property of Bountyhunter
Publications and may be
used in other publications
as they see fit.

© Bountyhunter
Publications 2026



Front Cover:
Carl Udry with a big
Reading Fully.



Well it has definitely kicked off out there. There are carp coming out left, right and centre. You have to get out there if you can. Make the effort to do an overnighter or 2 and you'll be surprised a what your efforts can achieve. The one thing that is certain to catch you more carp is more time on the bank. If I'm brutally honest there's nothing in the tackle shop that's going to put that extra carp or two on the bank. Only your own effort and time will do that. Stick to one bait, chopping and changing wont help you. Choose your rigs to fit the bottom they are going to sit on. Rigs don't have to be complicated, they just need to enable the hook to get in the carp's mouth easily. Carp fishing is not as complicated as you have been led to think.

CONTENTS

8. SHOCKLEADER

20.TAC-TEC

26. CATCH REPORTS

46. CARL UDRY

64. ELLIOTT GRAY

72. GARRY CARLTON

80. JONNY OLD

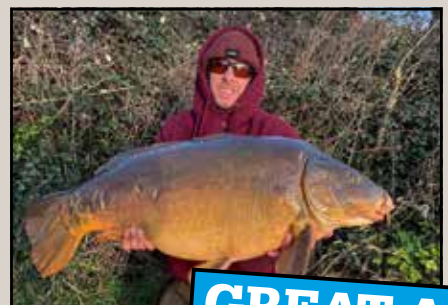
88. LUKE STEVENSON

94. RICH HOGG

106. ROB BURGESS

110. SY TURNER

116. SIMON SCOTT



**GREAT AD
DEALS**

BIG CARP and FREE LINE ADVERTISING PRICES SLASHED!
SOCIAL MEDIA ADVERTISING NOT AS EFFECTIVE?

Want to grow your business? We can put your products in front of a massive new audience. Email me at info@bigcarpmagazine.co.uk or call me 07768731425 for the latest deal.

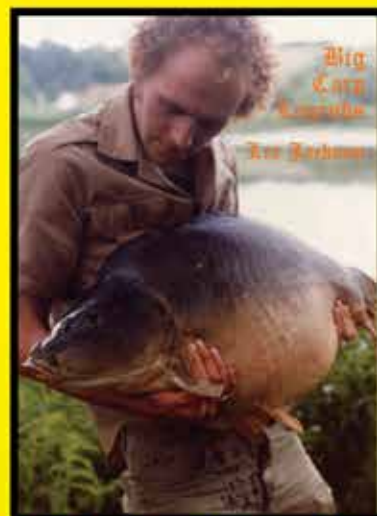
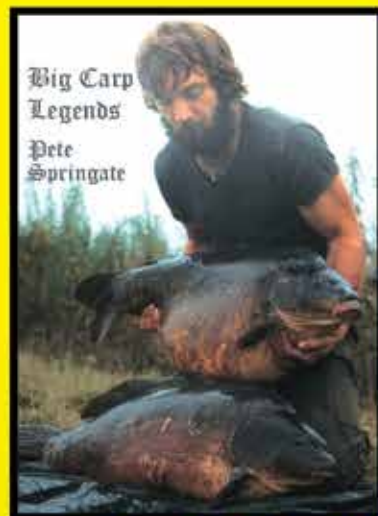
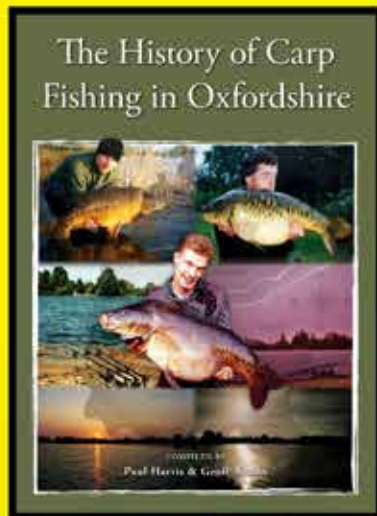
I promise you its cheaper than you think. Both magazines are FREE! Our readership is HUGE!

Join me in the UK's favourite carp magazines with over 40 years of experience in carp fishing publications.

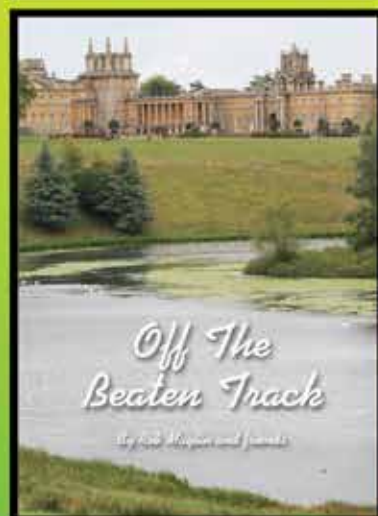
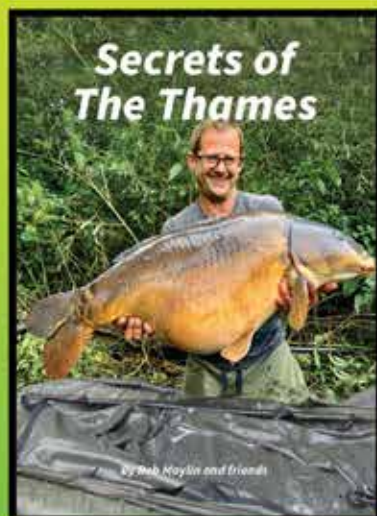
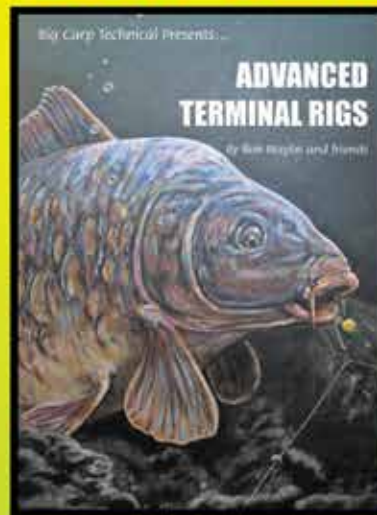
Rob Maylin

See both magazines FREE here - www.freelinemagazine.com

SPRING INT

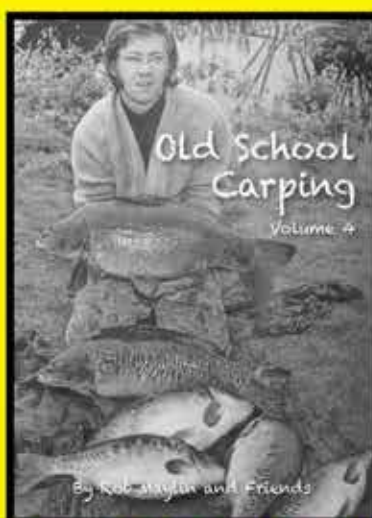
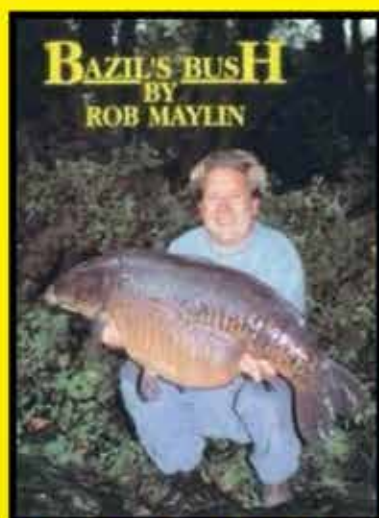


ORDER ONE OF OUR BEST SELLERS A

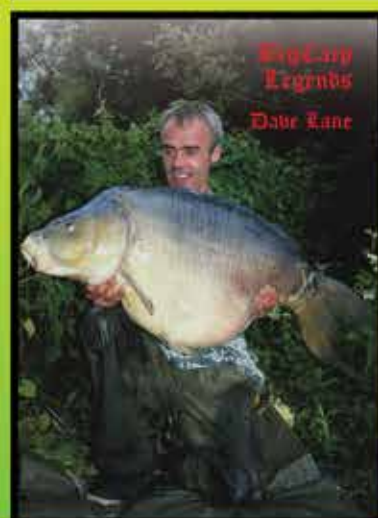
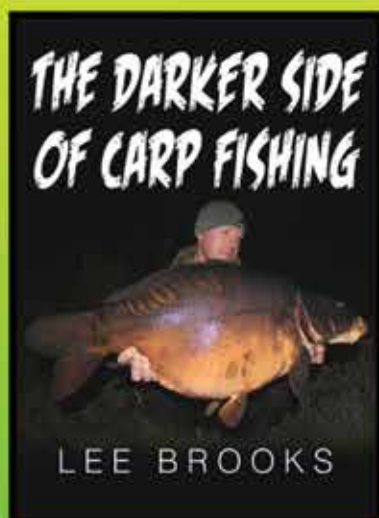
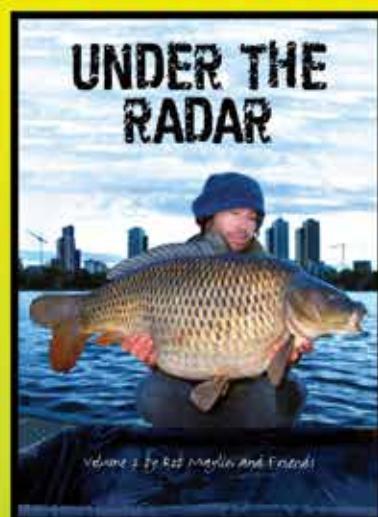
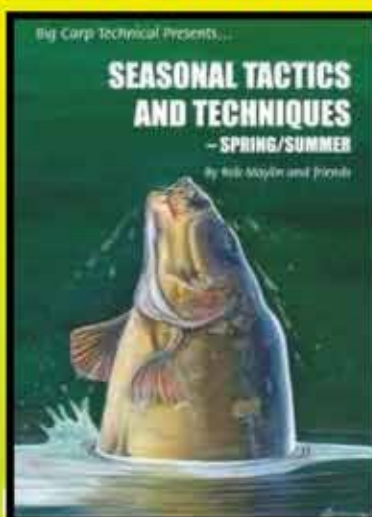
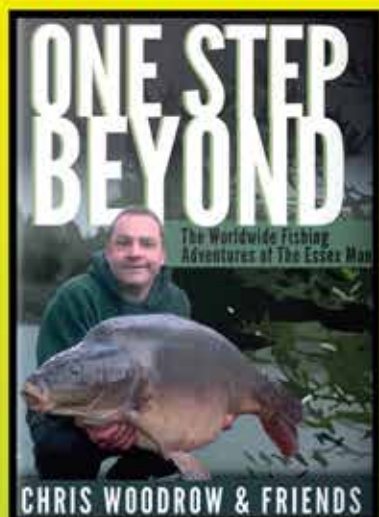


NEW BOOKS: WWW.C
NEW AND OLD BOOKS: WWW.EBAY.C

TO ACTION



AND BE PREPARED FOR THIS SEASON



CARPBOOKSONLINE.COM

CO.UK/USR/RARECARPBOOKSUNLIMITED

SHOCKLEADER

TRAKKER TEAM UP WITH WCC



Trakker are officially joining the World Carp Classic 2026! A huge partnership for a huge year as we head to the incredible Orellana for what promises to be our biggest event yet.

Big brand. Big venue. Big year.
WCC 2026 is building fast.

JOIN THE MISTRAL BAITTS TEAM



Team Members Wanted
We are looking for new UK
team members! If you're over
17, passionate about angling
and good with a camera, we

would love to hear from you.
Please contact @leon_soud-
et via Instagram messages or
drop us an email at: promo@
mistralbaits.co.uk

BLUEBELL LAKES NEWS

BENSON'S CAFE

BENSON'S CLASSICS

SERVED 17:00PM - 19:30PM

Classic Pie

Choose Steak & Potato or Chicken & Mushroom pie. £10.00
Served with chips, mushy peas and gravy.

Kebab

Choose Doner or Chicken meat served in pitta or naan bread with salad.
Upgrade to Chicken & Doner mix + £2 £10.00

Benson's Special Burger

Three ¼ burgers, Doner meat & 2 Cheese slices £8.50

Hunter's Chicken Burger

Chicken fillet, Bacon, 2 Onion rings, Cheese & BBQ Sauce. £7.50

Beef Burger:	¼ lb	½ lb	Cheese Burger:	¼ lb	½ lb
	£4.00	£5.50		£4.50	£6.50

Add bacon to any burger + £1.00

Chicken Burger	£5.00	Vegetarian Burger	£4.50
----------------	-------	-------------------	-------

All burgers served in a bun, with optional salad and sauce.

Add Chips to any burger for + £2.50

PIZZA: 12"

Cheese & Tomato - £8

Ham & Mushroom - £10

Pepperoni - £10

Meat Feast - Ham, Pepperoni, Chicken - £10

Vegetarian - Mushroom, Onion, Peppers, Sweetcorn, Tomato - £10

BREAKFAST

SERVED 08:00AM - 11:30AM

Benson's Bigger Breakfast

3 Sausages, 3 Bacon, 2 Eggs, 2 Hash Browns, Mushrooms, Baked Beans & Toast £12.50

Nemo Breakfast

2 Sausages, 2 Bacon, 1 Egg, 1 Hash Brown, Mushrooms, Baked Beans & Toast £9.50

Sausage, Bacon & Egg Bap £6.00

Sausage Bap £4.50

Bacon Bap £4.50

Egg Bap £4.00

Additional Items:

Egg - 50p

Hash Brown - 50p

Mushrooms - 50p

DRINKS

Coffee £2.00

Tea £1.80

Hot Chocolate £2.00

Cans £1.75

Bottle of Water £1.50

Bottled Soft Drinks £2.50

EXTRAS

Cheese & Garlic Pizza £8.00

7 Chicken Mini Fillets & Dip £6.00

Chips & Cheese £4.00

Large Chips £4.00

Chips in Pitta £4.00

Regular Chips £3.00

Garlic Bread £3.50

Garlic Bread with Cheese £4.00

8 Onion Rings £3.50

DESSERTS

Chocolate Fudge Cake £3.00

Tennessee Toffee Pie £3.00

Strawberry Cheesecake £3.00

OPENING TIMES

	AM	PM
WEDNESDAY	08:00 - 11:30	
THURSDAY	08:00 - 11:30 + 17:00 - 19:30	
FRIDAY	08:00 - 11:30 + 17:00 - 19:30	
SATURDAY	08:00 - 11:30 + 17:00 - 19:30	
SUNDAY	08:00 - 11:30	

CALL 07904660969 TO
PLACE YOUR ORDER

Bensons cafe has reopened! Fri 17:00pm - 19:30pm
 You can place orders from Sat 17:00pm - 19:30pm
 your peg call on 07904660969 We've also made some
 and come collect. changes elsewhere Lately we
 Open for breakfast: have been busy freshening
 Weds 8:00am - 11:30am up our tackle zone in the
 Thurs 08:00am - 11:30am Bluebell Lakes shop. We have
 Fri 08:00am - 11:30am expanded the area with new
 Sat 08:00am - 11:30am signage - the perfect way to
 Sun 08:00am - 11:30am browse your tackle essentials.
 Open for evening meal We might be bias but we think
 Thurs 17:00pm - 19:30pm it looks great





UK we are HIRING

Sales person for North of UK

Mustad®
— SINCE 1877 —

JOIN OUR TEAM

Apply Now!

info@mustad.no



**Fine quality fishing tackle
since 1857**

www.reubenheaton.com

For more on Reuben Heaton, Sportscale & RH brands
call 01455 293000 or email info@reubenheaton.com

Join Reuben Heaton on Facebook for all our latest news

REUBENHEATON



EAGLE CLAW
TROKAR



Exclusive distributors for eagle claw

END OF AN ERA



After 50 wonderful years Fishing Tackle, we are Rovers Fishing Tackle will be pleased to share that the closing its doors. shop will continue under

We want to thank the new ownership as Tommy's generations of anglers, Tackle — and the familiar customers and friends who Rovers staff will still be here have supported us over the to welcome you. This shop years. Your loyalty, stories may be changing hands, but and shared love of fishing the memories and community made this shop something built here will live on.

truly special. While this is Thank you everyone and the end of an era for Rovers best of luck to Tommys Tackle.



MANCHESTER



**JONNY
BOY**



**NEIL
SPOONER**



**JACOB
WORTH**



**BIG
DUFFS**



**YULLA
& LUCY**

DJS | LIVE MUSIC | GIVEAWAYS

FRIDAY 17 APRIL

DIECAST
MANCHESTER

plus...

WIN LUXURY YACHT HOLIDAYS

**WIN MONEY CAN'T BUY
FISHING EXPERIENCES**

...AND MUCH MORE



The background is a stylized illustration of a fishing scene. On the left, several colorful fishing floats (purple, white, and blue) are hanging from a wooden shelf. In the center, a long, yellow, braided fishing net is draped over a piece of torn, light-brown paper. On the right, a wooden structure, possibly a boat or a shed, is visible with a small inset image showing two people fishing in a river at sunset. The entire scene is set against a light blue background with horizontal wavy lines.

REGISTER &
START FISHING
NOW!

A simple line drawing of a fishing rod with a reel, positioned diagonally to the left of the main title.

Take a *friend* Fishing

FREE one-day fishing licence
for your friend during
3rd of April to 19th of April 2026

www.takeafriendfishing.co.uk



THE #1 FRENCH CARP FISHING VENUE

2 VENUES · 6 LAKES

OVER 4,000 CARPS

Average weight 35–42 lbs

Carp record 80 lbs+

Grass carp up to 80 lbs+

Koi carp up to 46 lbs+

Catfish up to 260 lbs+

Sturgeon up to 250 lbs+

ONLY 43 SWIMS

Across 6 lakes

240 acres of exclusive carp fishing

Huts · Safari tents · VIP swims

Carp fishing shop · Bar & restaurant

Tackle rental · Bungalows

Professional bailiff team - 7 days a week



+33 6 44 35 96 35



Iktus Béarn
Iktus Corrèze



@iktusbearn

www.iktus.fr



RIP ALAN PARTRIDGE



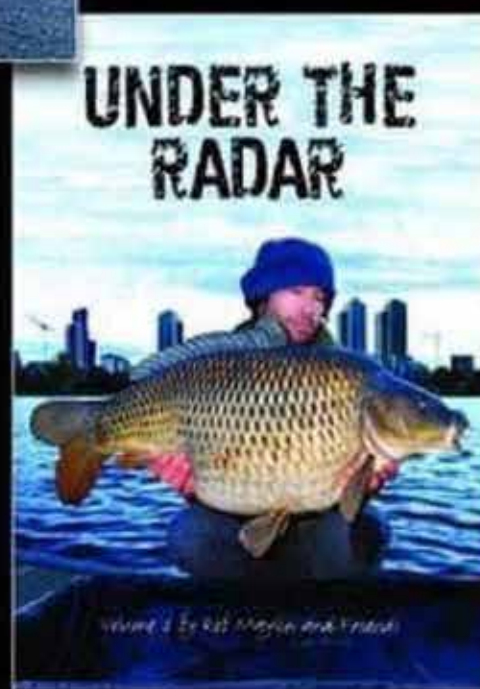
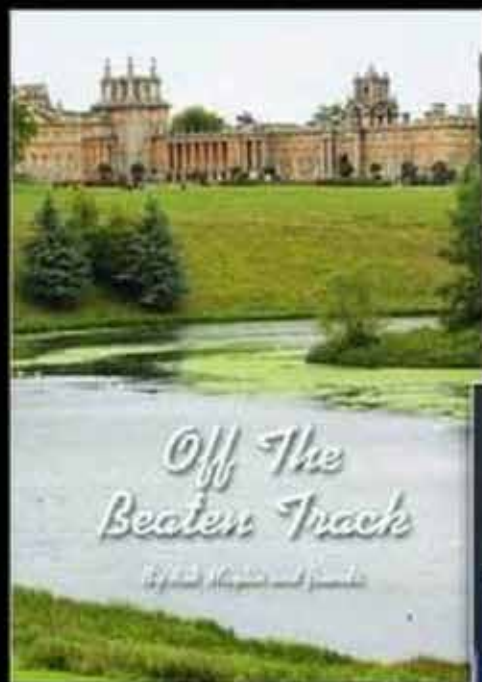
of knowing him will tell you what a true innovator he was , if he needed something to do a job and it didnt exist, he'd invent it he was

Very sad to hear of the passing of Alan Partridge, Alan was on the staff here at Rosemere and helped to make it the place it is today, he was also a great friend to many of our members and myself , he will be missed by a huge number of people in the angling world , those that had the pleasure also a 3rd dan black belt, and way ahead of his time when it came to extreme range casting ,one of the oldskool and without doubt a legend of the game .

RIP my ole mate, I'll miss our chats and listening to your brilliant stories. From all at The Rosemere Syndicate.

OFF THE BEATEN TRACK SERIES

For lovers of the unknown, unnamed and uncaught



07768 731425

<https://www.ebay.co.uk/usr/rarecarpbooksunlimited>
www.carpbooksonline.com

TAC-TIME

NITE WATCHES MX10





BACK BY DEMAND - FINAL significant attention it received
 PRODUCTION OF ONLY 75 across social platforms and
 WATCHES | SERIAL NUMBERS the media for being worn
 226-300 ALLOCATED ON by one of the nation's most
 PRE-ORDER UNTIL 30.04.26 - influential leaders, making it
 ESTIMATED DELIVERY 07.26 his apparent watch of choice.
 | ALL PRE-ORDERS ARE NON Highly sought after, the MX10
 REFUNDABLE | 50th Anniversary Edition is

Originally designed to a collectable timepiece for
 commemorate the 50th those who value precision and
 Anniversary of Founder's Day, historical significance.

the MX10 50th has become ■ RRP: £490

iconic in the UAE due to the ■ Web: nitewatches.com

THINKING ANGLERS SPOD SLEEVE



A designated sleeve and spod pouch can be adjusted to elasticated tip top made from either side or upside down, to our Camfleck 210D PVC backed cater for all different ways of padded material. Designed to folding your spod rod away. fit any spod rod from 12ft to 13ft. The long padded handle protects the rod butt, whilst the tip top secures the rod sections together. The large

Size: Handle Length 24cm
Pouch Length 16cm

RRP: £19.99

Web: www.thinkinganglers.com

DIGGER BOATS

Experts in Water-Based Machinery and Specialised Equipment for Ponds, Lakes and Waterways



BEFORE lilly removal



AFTER lilly removal

DiggerBoats.com is an established watercourse restoration company with equipment and machines that can help with any aquatic project anywhere in the UK. Get in touch for a free site survey and estimate.

07751 000790 / Info@diggerboats.com / www.diggerboats.com

CLICK HERE TO SEE US IN ACTION:



SHARP AS-BOW LANDING NET SYSTEM



Ever had that annoying situation where you have a tension in the arms enabling you to take the net apart easily. But there's another trick up your sleeve, by pulling this net's sleeve, by pulling through the draw cord you seal



up the net, add the floatation system and now your carp is safely retained without you having to get it out the water to transfer it to a separate retainer. Less handling of the carp is obviously much safer. The 2 piece pole is super stiff and has a proper screw thread and a screw-in spike on the bottom. You can purchase additional sections to make the net longer and a weigh staff adapter is in the pipe line too. You can even use it as a prodding stick. The landing net arms are made by Century. The whole system comes in a heavy duty bag. You can buy additional mesh and arm kits. The net is head and shoulders above anything else available.

- RRP: from £170
- Web: sharptackle.co.uk

RECENT CAPTURES



Ryan 40lb +



Marc 42lb 2oz



Paul 40lb 6oz



Andy 43lb 7oz



Kevin 41lb 1oz



Dave 49lb 1oz

Coming Soon!! Big Carp Magazine - Special Bluebell Lakes Edition. Articles from Adam Penning, Jim James, Lee Birch, Kev Hewitt, Andrew Shellard, Steve Parrotte, Ryan Woodlands, Matty Rhodes and more! DO NOT MISS IT!!



EXCLUSIVE
OFFERS

Come and
meet top anglers
alongside leading
tackle brands
from across the
industry

Our First Ever
Tackle Shop
Open Day

Bluelake
Lakes Making
History.
Come Down To
a FREE Event

Benson's
Open All
Day

Charity
Fundraiser
With
Unmissable
Prizes

DON'T
MISS OUT

TACKLE SHOP OPEN DAY

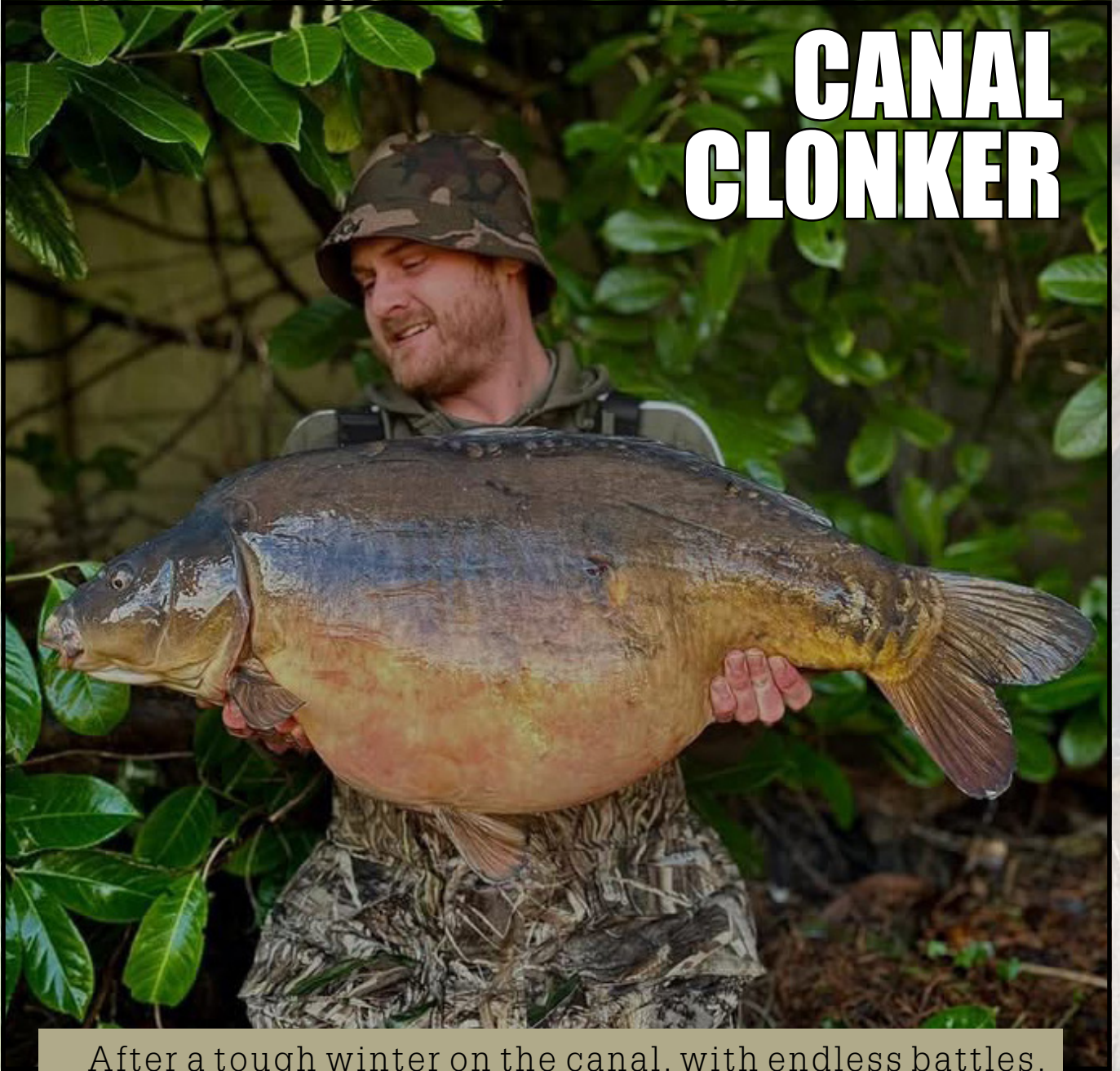
Saturday 16th May 2026
10am until 4pm

- ▶ Exclusive Offers
- ▶ Raffle Giveaways
- ▶ Chance To See The Products
- ▶ Meet Suppliers and Companies
- ▶ Rod & Bait Boat Demo's

Supported by:



CANAL CLONKER



After a tough winter on the canal, with endless battles, poor water conditions and many blank sessions. It was starting to get tough to stay positive for Charlie.

But it's nights like this that remind him why you keep pushing through.

The night itself was quiet, with plenty of rubbish on the lines. Eventually it was time to reset. Lines cleared, rigs checked, everything squared away... and not long after, the rod ripped into life.

The reward? This absolute mega canal carp, tipping the scales at 34lb.

What an incredible canal carp

BILLY'S BRACE



What a winter Billy Wells had! A brace of February 40s from Elphicks North Lake 44lb 7oz and 41lb 1oz



CATCH REPORTS

Jams Smith said
"What a buzz on
my birthday lol
New pb 46.2lb -
Paw print

BIRTHDAY BUZZ



SUFFOLK SUCCESS



Just ounces under the magical 50lb barrier - here's one of Suffolks finest big commons from Danny Perry to get your fires burning!



ULTRALOCK

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

www.sharptackle.co.uk



MY NAME IS JEFF-ERS

Craig Knowles with
Jeffers at 45.8



LOVELY LIN



Darren Espley -Jones landed this awesome 45lb 5oz linear mirror

WONDERFUL ONE SCALE



Jay Webb with 'One Scale'
at a new top weight of 49lb
12oz!

FAMOUS 5 STILL GOT IT



Trotter with a Blackthorn 50.08



**15 LAKES TO CHOOSE FROM
CARP TO 40KG (88LB)**

**MOST LAKES HAVE CARP TO 35KG (77LB)
HIGH STOCKING DENSITY**

1 HOUR SOUTH OF PARIS

370 ACRE SITE IN UNSPOILT COUNTRYSIDE

WWW.CARPA-SENS.FR

+33 6 31 63 07 71

BEN'S BRUTE



Ben Barr with
The Cossack at
44lb 8oz.

MEDWAY KING



King of The Medway Valley at a respectable 64lbs
8ozs and a new UK PB for MickTuck.

STUNNER FOR STEVE



Steve pedder with this incredible 46.1b07oz thing of beauty!

SPECIAL OPS

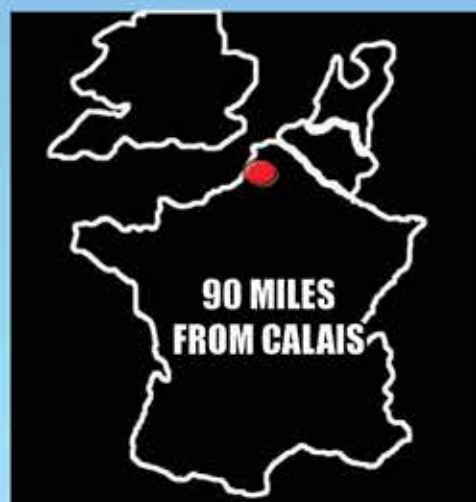


Wow! What a crazy 48hrs it has been for Danno Moors! As many are aware I had a keyhole op 2 weeks ago. I headed away from home and to the bank, so I can get away and relax on my bedchair/ moon chair. The conditions were looking great. However this was not the case. I broke down on the way. I Managed to get sorted with help from Mother and my partner. But this didn't stop me as I had a hunch I will catch. Last time I had similar I caught my last 40. My back hurts now for the right reason.

I caught 7 carp in total including the incredible Big Lin at 51lb 4oz. I've also been chasing a UK 30lb common for a while and managed to do it at 30lb 14oz not 1 but 2 pbs session of a lifetime!

Experience the big carp venue in northern France

Only 1 hr 1/2
from Calais !



Val Dore Lakes

ONLINE
BOOKING
AVAILABLE

WEB : WWW.VALDORE.COM

email : contact@valdore.com



**CARP AVERAGE
WEIGHT : 30 lb
CARPS up to 74 lb ...!**

- £255 / angl / week
- 6 lakes - 60 acres
- 24 tons of carp
- Restaurant / Bar
- Wifi - Elect on swim
- Carpark on all swims
- Log cabins
- Tackle shop



Cabins



Tackle shop



Restaurant

FREE BROCHURE :

Call evening

00 33 608 109 134

english spoken

or email us : contact@valdore.com

FRISKY BUSINESS AT FARRIERS



Steve Frisk's recent trip wasn't too shabby, 41.12oz....
40.10.... 35lb.... 32+.... and stockie 17



JON'S BIG BRACE



An incredible 48hrs on my Cambs syndicate 48.12 and 41.12 backed up with 2 x 38s, 2 x 35s, a 34, 2 x 33s a 30 and 9 x 20s...



Oak Lakes Fisheries

www.oaklakesfisheries.co.uk



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



39 lb 4 oz stunner Nice one Paul Spring is here now!



Two more winter stunners at 21 lb and 13 lb Lovely day today to be on the lakes



Pipe lake member Dean catches 2 of the new December stocking



Couple of doubles for Paul and Alexis fishing day ticket lake.



Absolute stunner - 17 lb 8 oz one of the new stock in Pipe lake

Oak Lakes Fisheries

www.oaklakesfisheries.co.uk



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



Pipe lake member Dean and son Archie had a great session with these stunners at 35 lb 8 oz and 19 lb 2 oz. Top angling.



Look at that smile!! 13 lb happy days



27lb another nice winter carp



Pipe lake member Beansie has had another good day - 30 lb 8 oz (a new 30) and 28 lb - both are crackers. Well done John.



27lb mirror and a 18 1/2 lb common.

Oak Lakes Fisheries

www.oaklakesfisheries.co.uk



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



Good day session today
with a 30 lb 4 oz and a 19
lb Good angling Paul



Great start to the
weekend on Pipe lake
- 22 lb for Harry and 27
lb for Charlie. Few other
members fishing too so
hopefully more catches
to come.



26 lb 4 oz carp on swim
10 the first finger



25 lb another nice carp
this weekend



Dave on members lake
had a 34 lb 8 oz mirror
and new stock mirror.



Swim 10 the first finger
produces another nice
carp of 24 lb 2 oz.



CARL UDRY

WINTER MAGIC

Winter is, and will remain, such a magical and underrated season to target big carp. And yes, it can be relentless pushing through the elements. But, if you are organised, prepared, and willing to persist no matter what. The rewards are there, and, with significantly lower footfall. You can put those odds in your favour, and put something special in the album. A big target carp in the winter, is an extra special carp. It feels especially earned. I have been blessed and managed to bank carp in December and January, but the special ones seem to have a habit of falling in February. Picking the right winter venue is important. I always look for something with a few more carp to target, but I never want it easy. I still want the challenge, and of course it must have a target carp swimming within it. I always need to have a target in mind, it drives me. The obsession, also gives me focus and helps that push through those tough weather elements. I live approximately half way between M4 junction 13



(Newbury) and M4 junction 12 (Calcot). As we know, the M4 corridor is littered with superb carp angling and I haven't needed to venture far from home. I feel so blessed, and still have my sights on other local challenges.

In April 2023, I managed to book on to Reading & District Angling Association (RDAA) junction 12 (J12) lake with a group of friends. It was my first taste of what this fantastic 15 acre venue had to

offer. Extremely secure. Well thought through and spaced out pegs. Loads of bank side space and tranquility. Yes, it sits alongside the M4 and the train line. But, the everyday hustle from those commuters disappears into the background when treading the banks. It becomes this tolerant hum that you forget about. It's a magical place, and you can see why it's so popular. Then the main attraction, is the stamp of carp. Some absolutely



gorgeous lookers that travel over 40 pounds, with rumours of the odd one breaking the 50 barrier.

When on that initial social session, I was shown a picture of an upper 30 fully scaled carp that had been caught days before. What an absolute stunning carp. My cup of tea indeed. With a few carp caught between the few of us, I left J12 with a real urge to return. A few months later, I was presented with the opportunity to have a dabble through the winter. And of course, I absolutely jumped at the opportunity.

Like allot of winter venues, J12 takes in an abundance of extra water through the winter. Sitting adjacent to the River Kennet, and with the volume of rain in recent winters. J12 rises by approximately 2-3 feet and most swims are fully submerged and the tree lined edges, move in and become part of the lake. All part of the



THE ORIGINAL BRITISH TRITIUM WATCH COMPANY



NITE MAVERICK
FORMER ROYAL MARINE
DAVE COLEMAN
WEARS THE HAWK



Reviews 5,768 • Excellent



For the past three years, Dave Coleman, Former Royal Marine and his team of instructors have all been testing their HAWK watches to the limits in mud, wet, cold and extreme outdoor conditions whilst pushing recruits to hell and back.

Did the HAWK let them down?... NO

Nite watches are continuously put to the test by our Mavericks and come with a 5 Year Warranty, Swiss movements, super bright tritium illumination and most importantly a build quality that is designed to be used and abused by those who live for the outdoors.



SWISS-MADE
MOVEMENT



TRITIUM
ILLUMINATION



SAPPHIRE
CRYSTAL



5 YEAR
WARRANTY


PROVEN THROUGH PASSION

NITEWATCHES.COM



opportunity and challenge, so you just run with it. Extra layers, decent waders and waterproofs, and go for it.

My first winter was good considering I was finding my feet, and mapping out most of the lake from scratch. A number of well earned bites, and carp to over 40 pound. Not easy as I expected and I was out trying in some brutal conditions. The carp only give themselves away on those typically good weather fronts. During the bleak and freezing cold conditions, they would literally disappear into the abyss. With depths from 6-14 feet, it was far from uniform and there was plenty of nooks and crannies for them to hide away. The lake is also very weedy in the warmer months, so you can encounter lots of dying weed in the winter. Then obviously all the additional water capacity also adding another dimension.

With no nuisance fish and

crayfish present, I didn't feel any limitation to what my bait choice was going to be. When I use any bait, I need to feel like I have something the carp will crave. Almost impossible for them to ignore. I decided to put my faith in Handcraft Baits 'Herb'. Carp don't eat fishmeal in the winter, apparently. I went on to find out they like the herb, that's for sure.

My mix has been roughly 80% fresh herb boilies through moved through a ridgemonkey crusher, so it's very small chops/shavings and crumb. Then 20% a mix of hemp, sweetcorn and 4mm carp pellets. All hydrated with a decent dollop of herb primer. It smells and looks, amazing. Also very visual, being a dark red raspberry colour and flecks of yellow corn. To make life easier, and to make bait ups easier. This year I did make up batches of the mix in 5L buckets and dropped them in to freezer. It was then a



case of taking a bucket from the freezer 24hrs earlier, and away I went. The only round baits I ensured entered the water, were my hook baits. Match the hatch, Handcraft Herb 20mm wafers.

I didn't start my winter campaign this year until mid December, despite the ticket starting in November. I did pick off a couple of carp in December and January, but nothing that gave me the momentum to push on and build something from. I wasn't convinced those carp came from areas holding the majority of the stock. It felt like I just picked them off. I did move around allot, trying to locate the bulk, but didn't feel close.

Then literally as any confidence started to grow and all my early winter preparation complete, the weather had plans of its own. Torrential rain caused flooding including access to/from the venue and

then a period of sustained arctic air temperatures and the whole lake froze solid. Thankfully I hadn't committed too much bait at that point, but it wasn't long until the lake had defrosted.

Then early February, I had a 36hr session planned and already had a preconceived idea to target an area of the lake that was productive for me the previous February. After a few flicks around with a 3oz marker weight. It was evident my previously marked spots were now areas of dense dying Canadian weed. But I was still keen to fish the vicinity, so I persisted until I found something hard (gravel or firm silt), fairly small and most likely not an established spring/summer spot. They are easy to locate.

Then all of a sudden, a very firm donk. A very firm thump down and loads of feel making its way back through the braid and rod. All the vibration



pointing to a hard gravel spot, and not very big. Not easy to get more than one rod on from my swim choice, but that was one rod set. The other two opting for silt and slightly away from this spot.

With the clock ticking down with minutes to spare, the rod on the new hard gravel spot was away. This mint ice cold carp validated a hunch, and it became the start of a short and successful early-mid February campaign.

We all know tuffties can be a menace. They can also tell you things. After that carp validated the hunch, I went back to the lake with my spod rod and a 4oz distance weight. I was very keen to map out this spot but from another swim. Slightly closer, but an awkward cast. After I parked up the van, I walked to the swim and was greeted with about 30 tuffties all huddled in a tiny cluster and doing nothing. They were not

SECRETS OF THE THAMES

Price
£29.95

Secrets of The Thames

By Rob Maylin and friends



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

<https://www.ebay.co.uk/usr/rarecarpbooksunlimited>
www.carpbooksonline.com



directly on my spot, but they were not far away. Not one of them dived, and it looked very odd. It really stood out.

After they eventually drifted away, I spent a few hours mapping out the spot which ended up to be approx 3m wide and 2m deep. I popped up the marker float to ensure my free bait was going to land directly on the spot. Using horizon markers, I mapped out everything to ensure I could accurately get three rods on the spot, approx 1m apart.

Daytime bites are common in the winter, and J12 was no different. After dropping in 5L of free bait, then again two days later. It was then time for an early February day session the following morning.

5:30am dark arrival, my spod and three rods all clipped up and ready to go. When I had enough day light to confidently pick off my horizon markers. I dropped another 5L bucket of free bait, then all three rods safely deployed 1m apart, fluorocarbon settled, and alarms set.

What happened next was way beyond expectations. Between 10am and 3pm, I had 10 bites and landed 10 carp to 29lb. 8 20s and 2 doubles. Approx 230lb of carp. All absolutely pristine and in full winter colours. I was clearly bang on top of them and they had really homed in on the bait. But still, with 15 acres of flooded ice cold water to myself it was still a crazy winter day session that I will never forget. The wind was unfavourable south easterly, and the air temperature was bitterly cold.

With confidence now sky high, it was a case of maintaining consistency and accuracy, and just making time to get rods on the spot. It did start to feel like it was a matter of time until some of my winter targets would turn up.

Another 5L bucket dropped



in at first light the morning of my next day session. Three rods soon in position and it wasn't long and a rod was away, but unfortunately my first lost carp. A much larger carp too. With the lake heavily flooded, peg side vegetation was more precarious than normal and this carp knew how to capitalise on it. Absolutely gutted, and I couldn't help but think if I had lost my ultimate prize.

Despite the loss, I sat out the day but the bobbins remained motionless. But, I didn't see this as a bad thing. I could sense maybe the bigger carp had moved in, and were maybe feeding more cautiously and sparingly. Then 20mins before pack down, a one toner and after another heavy battle one of my winter targets was safely in the net. What a carp. 38lb 6oz and again, absolutely mint perfect in full winter

colours. It's dorsal constantly up throughout all the photos.

My No1 winter target remained the big fully. It's not a frequent visitor to the bank, which made it even more appealing. With the 38lb'er a massive tick in a box, I created one final day session window to have another go before heading to the Big One show to support Evolve.

Again, another 5L bucket dropped in at first light and three rods in position. It was a more favourable south westerly breeze and overcast, and forecast to remain as such until lunchtime onwards and then bright warm sun most of the afternoon (the first time in ages). With the morning almost ticked away, the bobbins remained motionless. But then, out of nowhere, another one toner and battle commenced with another decent carp. The fight this time was nothing too tricky, and before long it was in the

net. A very straight forward fight, thankfully.

Littered with dark mahogany scales on both flanks, and after several cross checks with the photo I had on my phone. I had it, the fully, which tipped the scales round to 40lb 10oz. A very lean, but LONG, winter fully. It looked incredible. My No1 target, done. The sun came out on forecast, pics done, drove home buzzing. What a climax to an extraordinary February. A huge run of carp all inside 10 days.

After doing a spray of great on the bank shots, with my tripod set up in around 2ft of water, I snapped a cluster of water shots when the dark mahogany winter fully was safely returned.

Its been hard to move away from my trusted 4.5" multi-rig with a 20mm wafter. The conversion rate and hook holds has been incredible. All dead centre and bottom lip, 10mm back, and most needing





forceps to prize out the bend of the hook. A spray of the Evolve Tackle components, including a Medium Straight Aligner, long Anti Tangle Sleeve, Weight Clip and “-” Tail Rubber and 3oz Distance Swivel Weight. I find clear and firm hard spots, as this is a must for this presentation to be laid out flat and optimum.

All my luggage and kit was tested to the extreme. I packed down and set up in some of the

worst weather I have fished in. Allot of drying things at home, to then have everything soaked again days later. I also had waders on for hours, which was an endurance in itself. But, all part of the challenge, right.

Then finally, the bait. I went through approximately 45 litres of bait in total, which is around 30kg. When you are confident you are on them, feed them.

Be lucky, Carl.



ELLIOTT GRAY

MATCH THE HATCH

Despite my well documented love for bright hookbaits, they're far from my only hookbait choice. Typically, I'll use a pink one when fishing with singles (casting at showing fish) or when I'm fishing over larger quantities of bait. There's a time and a place for them, but with my unwavering love for edge fishing comes a different approach.

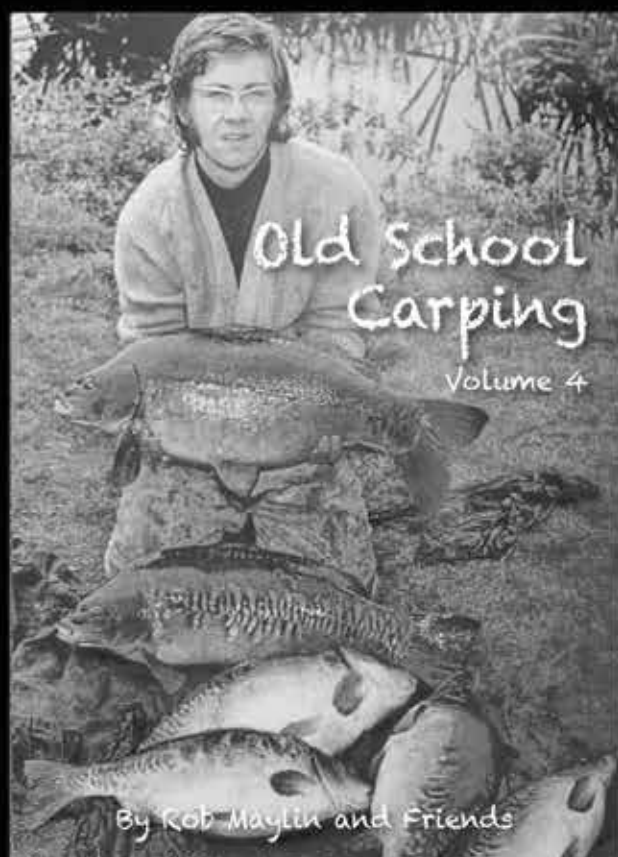
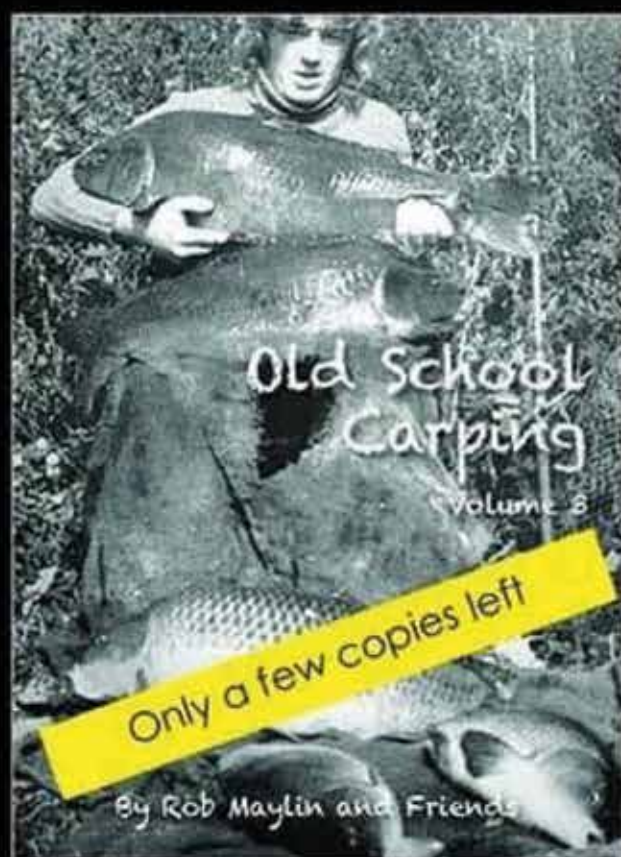
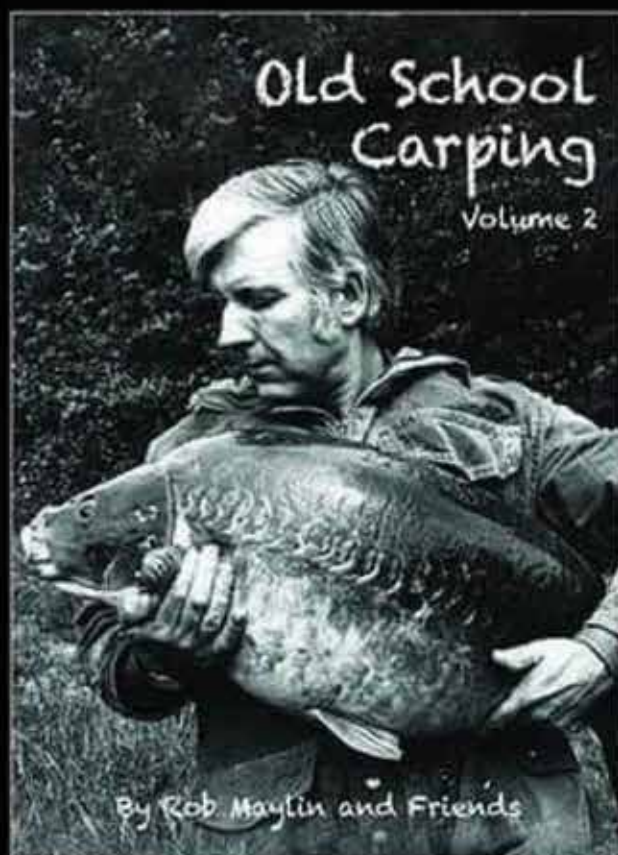
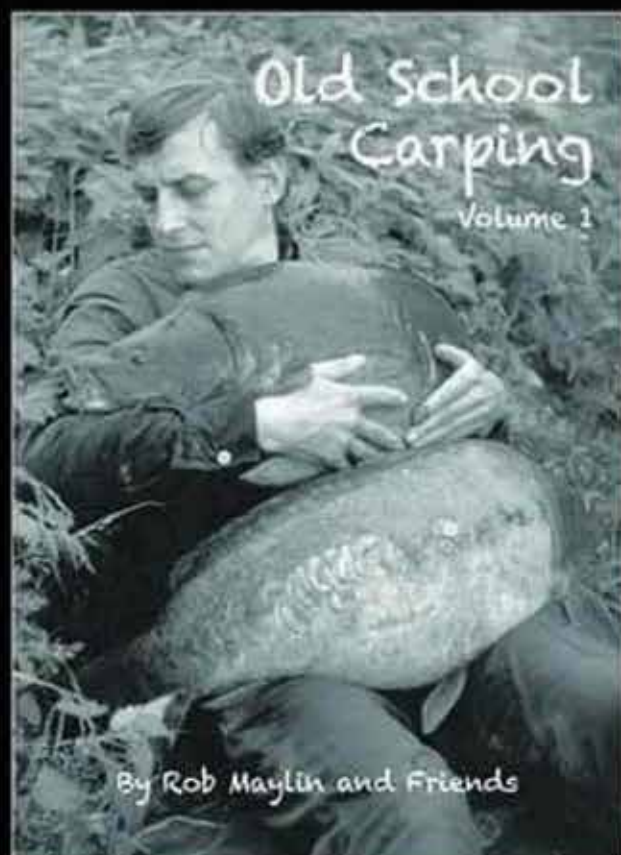


In most instances, I'm not looking to build a spot like I would when fishing out in the lake, a lot of my margin work revolves around discreet trap setting and pre-baiting. So, whilst I might introduce larger quantities of bait whilst I'm not fishing, when it comes to putting the rigs in the water, generally this is just a rig and a small helping of bait. The idea is to get fish visiting the spots regularly and confidently, then lower in a rig.



I generally go for a less obvious hookbait, and just enough free offerings for a bite. My fishing is based around seeing and knowing carp are visiting the spot, once that box is ticked it makes sense to feed them exactly what they've been eating and generally that's either a matching wafter or a balanced tiger nut, depending on what I've been baiting with'.

OLD SCHOOL CARPING SERIES



07768 731425

<https://www.ebay.co.uk/usr/rarecarpbooksunlimited>
www.carpbooksonline.com





DIGGER BOATS IN ACTION

Experts in Water-Based Machinery and Specialised Equipment for
Ponds, Lakes and Waterways

AMPHIBIOUS DIGGER & DIGGER BOAT.



AMPHIBIOUS DIGGER: This is the power house of the fleet. Able to work on terrains where other diggers fear to go including soft clay, silt, mud and even able to float on water. This 3 ton digger can do anything a normal digger can do but it can do it in the middle of a lake!

DIGGERBOAT: A 2.2-ton machine that has a 360-digger arm mounted on a powerful work boat. This durable and powerful craft can clear huge amounts of spoil from midwater with its various attachments and transport it back to the bank leaving your watercourse clear and renewed.



**07751 000790 / Info@diggerboats.com /
www.diggerboats.com**

DIGGER BOATS IN ACTION

Experts in Water-Based Machinery and Specialised Equipment for
Ponds, Lakes and Waterways

CUSTOMER REVIEWS



Neil Ellis recommends Digger Boats.

39m · 🌐

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



Mark Turrell

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



Top fan

Stuart Stockton

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



“

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

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

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



Stuart Stockton
Chesterton Community Angling Club



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

07751 000790 / Info@diggerboats.com/
www.diggerboats.com

GARRY CARLTON



A TALE OF TWO COMMONS

Sometimes we are blessed with incredibly good fortune, luckily, being in just the right place at just the right time! However, if you do not believe that lightning can strike twice, read on!.....

sessions, the fish simply weren't playing ball and the lake was extremely reluctant to give up its occupants. Two days and nights with nothing to show for it and nothing had so much as farted near my hookbaits!

It had been one of those It was one of those trips that

leaves you scratching your head, wondering what you could have done differently. Everything looked just right, a lovely South Westerly was lapping into the reed fringed margins, the sky was overcast with a threat of rain and the pressure had been steadily falling over the last 48 hours, but the indicators had remained stationary throughout.

With everything, except the rods, net and brew kit packed away ready to go, we decided to have one last cuppa before hitting the road. As we sat sipping our brews I turned to Wendy and said "I really had high hopes for the middle rod this morning, it looks perfect out there and I got it bang on the money.".....as soon as I had uttered the words, the alarm sounded a short series of bleeps and the bobbin tightened up to the rod!

The following fight was incredible, a real long winded, arm aching affair and it seemed

like ages before we had the fish in the net, a common, known as April, weighing in at 38lb 12oz!

If we had decided against having one last cuppa, that would never have happened!

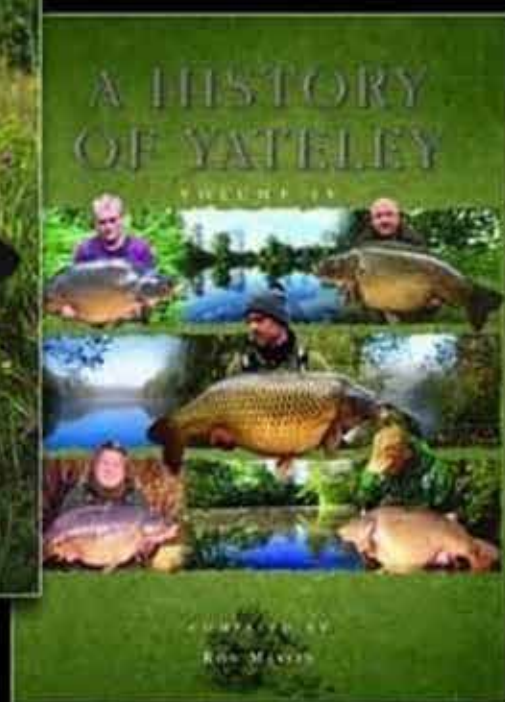
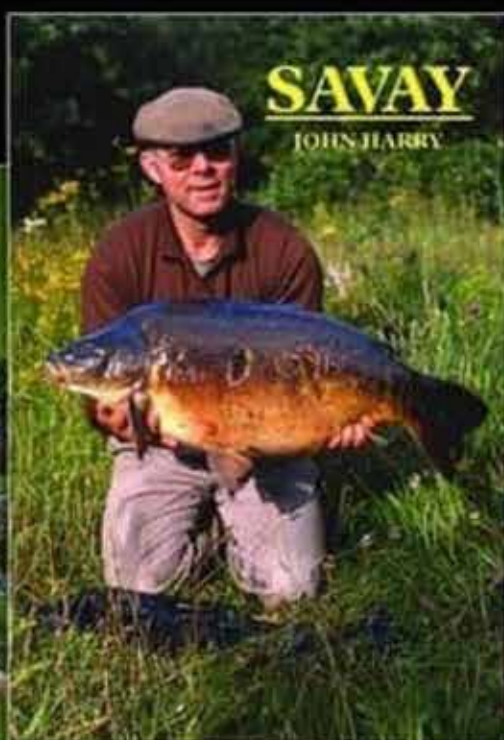
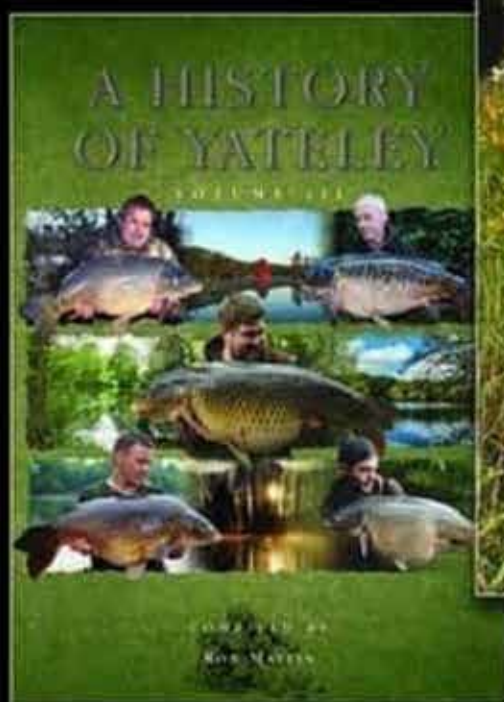
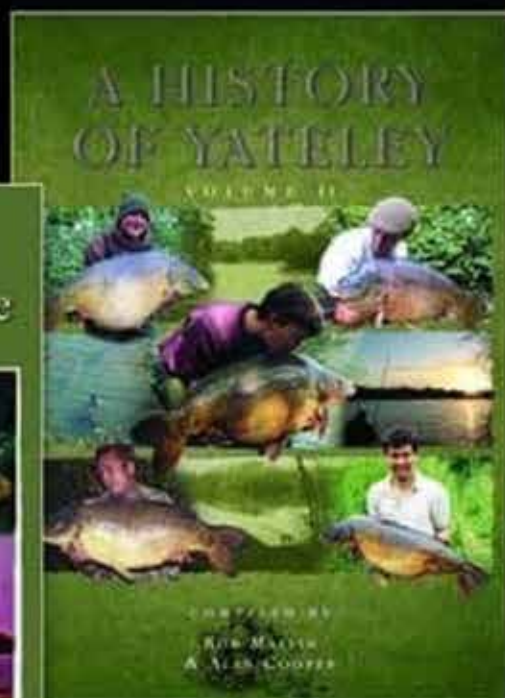
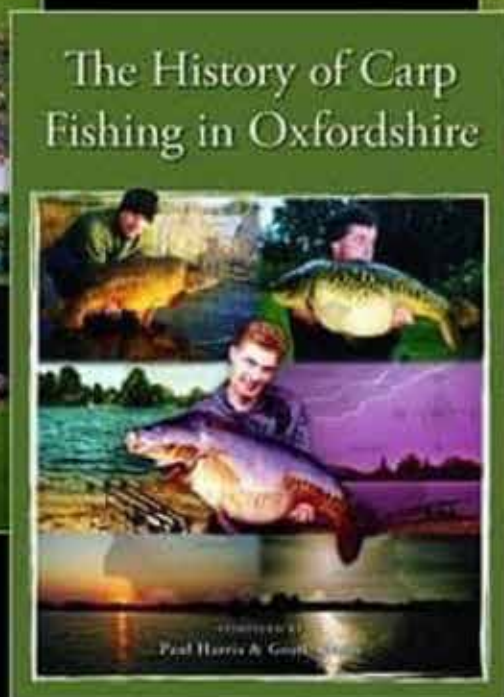
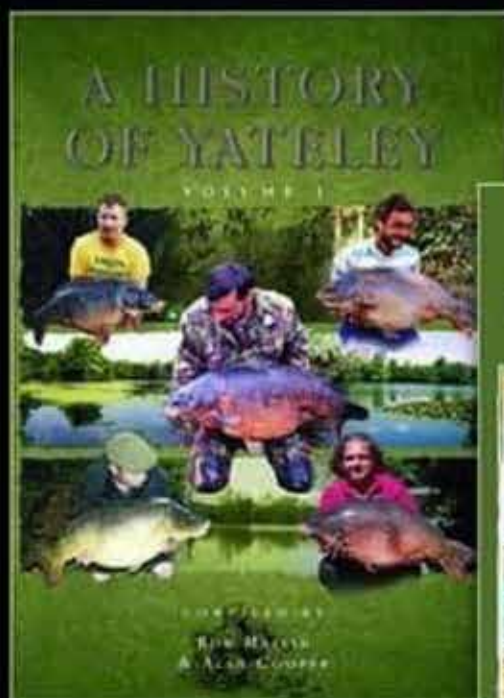
A couple of weeks later we were back for another go.

Unfortunately, Wendy who had been somewhat under the weather for the last couple of days, with some flu-like bug, didn't feel up to getting the rods out. We ended up deciding to occupy the two-man bivvy so that I could tuck Wendy up on the bedchair and ply her with tea and hot soup giving her a chance to sleep it off undisturbed.

The conditions were totally different to our previous trip, with high pressure firmly in charge resulting in chilly nights whilst the daylight hours were bathed in Autumn sunshine.

It was hard going again and after a blank 24 hours I

THE HISTORY SERIES



07768 731425

<https://www.ebay.co.uk/usr/rarecarpbooksunlimited>
www.carpbooksonline.com

decided to have a lead around and change two of the spots.

Another quiet night passed by and before we knew it, pack up time was upon us!

After a couple of days (and nights) totally crashed out, Wendy was now feeling much better and sat by the rods while I took the rest of the gear back to the van.

Finally, after everything

was loaded, I stood by the rods, wondering which one to bring in first and after a little deliberation, I decided on the middle. I reached for the blank but just before I closed my hand around it the alarm signalled an absolute one toner and the spool went into melt down! This thing was out of the blocks like Usain Bolt!



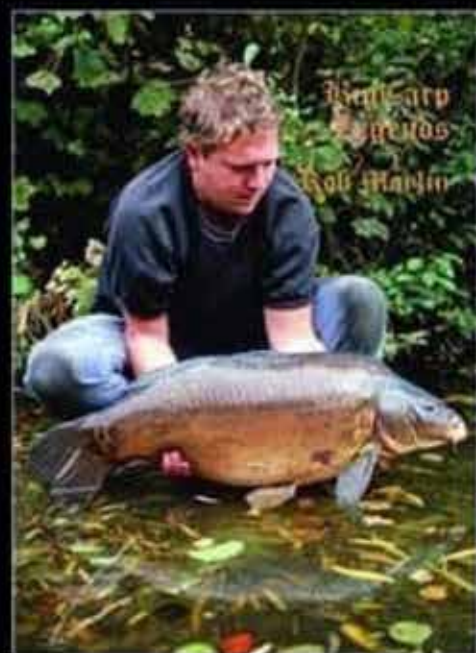
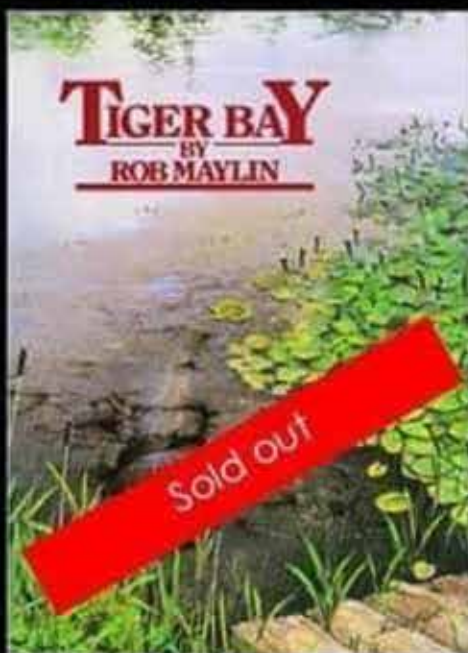
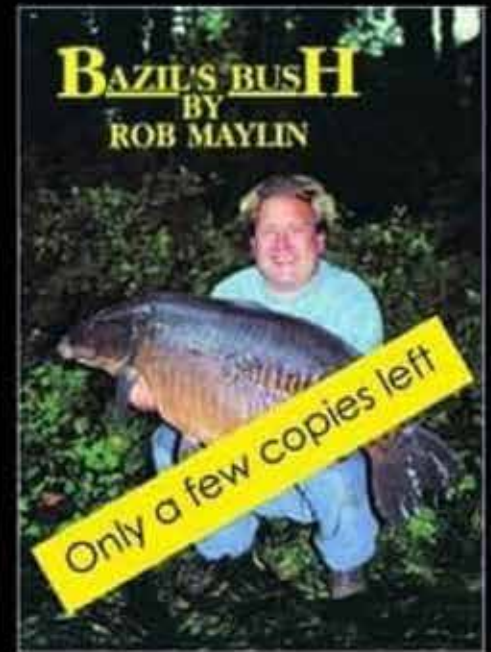
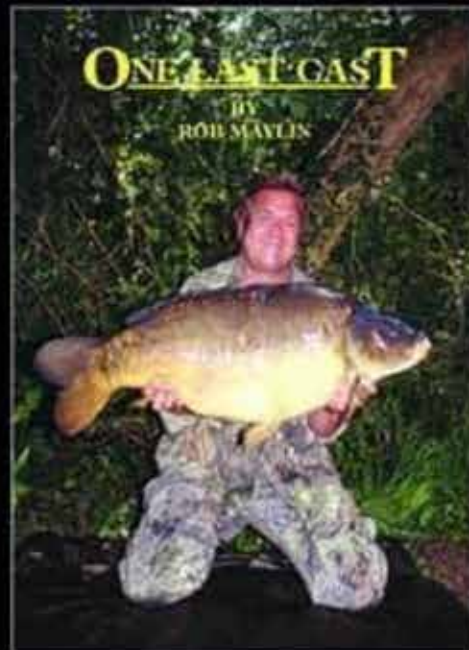
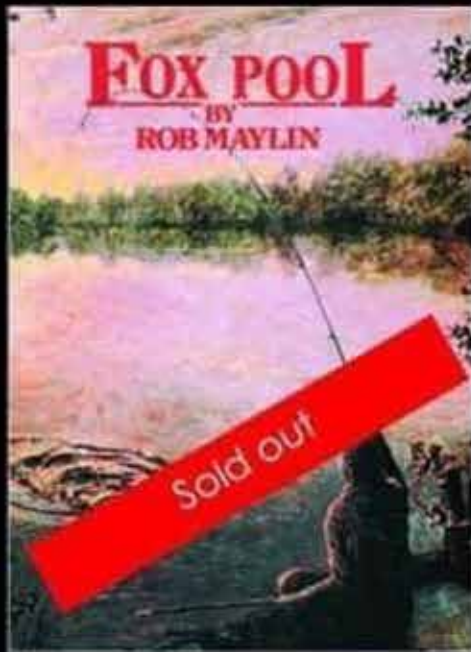
Just as before, the fight was off the scale and it seemed like hours had gone by before the fish was ready for netting. When it surfaced we could see it was another big common, in fact we both started to laugh because we actually thought it was the same big common! However, it transpired that this was a rare visitor to the bank, known as the Poacher at a weight of 38lb 14oz! Can you Adam and Eve it?..... two 38lb commons on two consecutive sessions, both falling to the middle rod as it was on the verge of being wound in!! In fact, if the Poacher had made a move for the hookbait three seconds later I would have snatched it from under its nose! Now that is seriously lucky!!





THE ROB MAYLIN SERIES

50 years on the bank with Rob and Friends



07768 731425

<https://www.ebay.co.uk/usr/rarecarpbooksunlimited>
www.carpbooksonline.com



JONNY OLD

DREAM SESSION

I'd been watching that had always produced the weather closely, for me. I knew the wraps waiting for warmer and spots well, having done nights and dropping well there previously, so I pressure. With a big front was able to get the rods out forecast to roll in, I booked the quickly and quietly. Each Friday off work and headed spot received a kilo of Cell to the lake full of confidence. boilies, spread accurately. On arrival, I chose an area with the catapult.

I fished my ever-faithful spinner rig, using a size 4 Kurv hook on a semi-stiff Dark Matter Weedy Green hooklink, attached to a Lead Clip system with a 4oz lead. The mainline was 18lb Kontour, and I made sure to clean the line on every recast to ensure maximum invisibility.

As the weather rolled in, conditions turned savage — 40mph winds and heavy rain battered the lake. Almost immediately, carp began to

show, and I was rewarded with a quick bite on the first afternoon.

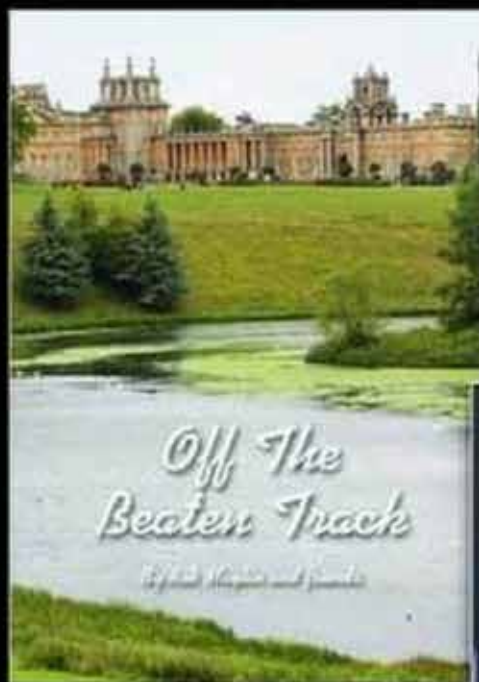
Over the three days, I landed eight carp in total: a couple of upper doubles, a couple of 20s, a 32lb leather, a stunning 35lb 10oz half-lin, and one of the lake's old residents, 'Stew Pot', tipping the scales at 42lb 10oz.

The highlight of the session, however, was an incredible carp known as 'Bowler's Pet', weighing 43lb 14oz. She hadn't been



OFF THE BEATEN TRACK SERIES

For lovers of the unknown, unnamed and uncaught



07768 731425

<https://www.ebay.co.uk/usr/rarecarpbooksunlimited>
www.carpbooksonline.com





caught for a few years, but I'd recently watched her from up a tree with binoculars and mentioned to everyone just how big she was looking. Seeing her lying in the bottom of the net, absolutely massive, was a special moment.

Steady baiting, topping up with a kilo of Cell boilies after each bite — clearly kept the fish in the area and feeding hard. In those awesome conditions, everything came together perfectly'.



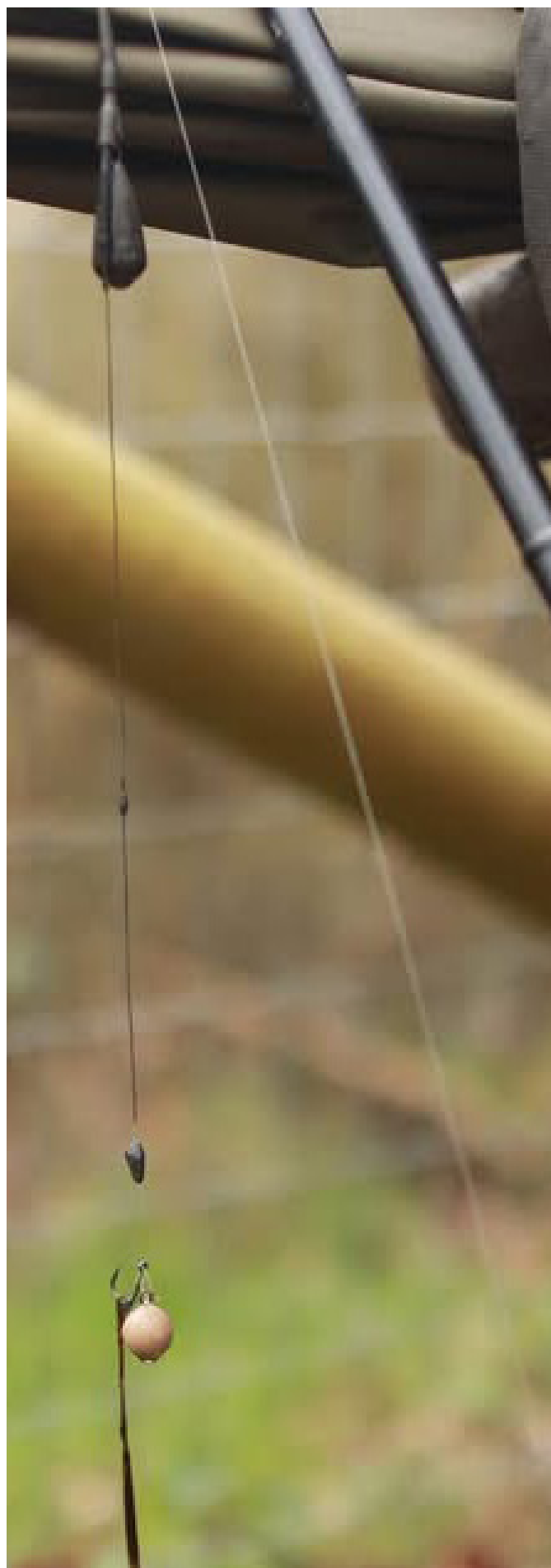




LUKE STEVENSON

SUBTLE SHOWS ARE THE KEY

As ever in early spring, signs are thin on the ground, but absolute gold. So, after seeing several subtle shows in a central area of the lake over several trips, it was a case of getting in there with subtle traps of 12mm Manila Active, soft boom hinge rigs with Manila cork ball pop ups. A 30lb mirror confirmed the area was good, traps repeated, and seeing the biggun shuffle out on me in the afternoon with a mega weather front coming in that evening, I almost couldn't sleep with excitement that night. The early hours came, and after a pretty epic battle, the king of the lake was mine



47.8 and looking mega!! Proof that making the most of often subtle signs is absolutely key this time of year!!

Luke said “Arriving at a busy lake, I was pleased to see the central area where I’d seen some subtle shows on my last trip free, after standing in the swim for 10 minutes I saw a subtle show and telltale line of bubbles 40 yards out, absolute gold! 2 soft boom hinge rigs with Manila cork ball pop ups, either side of the show and half a kilo of 12mm Manila active, around each rod, traps set - A 30lb mirror the next morning was a real boost, let alone seeing the biggun show on me later that morning!! I repeated the same later that day and with big winds and low pressure coming in that night, I’d never felt so close to catching ‘the one’ - Sure enough next morning after a ripping bite and savage battle, she was mine!”









RICH HOGG

CANAL SESSIONS PART 3

3rd September 2016

Carrying on from last months Big Carp (all back issues are available - www.freelinemagazine.com), This is how I finished this morning's session, with a stunning supercharged mirror that really didnt want to see what my landing net looked like. All angry and tensed up throughout its short time on the bank. Absolutely love these beautiful canal fish! This was the icing on the cake to a really enjoyable morning!!!

7th September 2016

Finally got to my spot in the early hours, dripping with sweat and eager to get those rods out and try for some kip. I didn't really manage any though as this absolute steam train took off like a rocket, an hour or so after setting up, right power house for its size and full of attitude both on and off the bank!

11th September 2016

Another couple of hours in the right place at the right time and another lovely canal



character on the bank. These quick mornings are really coming up with the goods... even if i am stuck in land of the mid double mirrors ;-). Not sure what they fed on here but they don't half pull back a bit!!!

17th September 2016

Little last-minute torpedo from this morning, saving me from a blank. Definitely a runner up prize compared to the 1 that slipped the hook an hour earlier but it's been a while and the fish have gotta have a bit of

luck now and again too. This one bounced into life seconds before the sun popped up over the trees and put an end to any more action so for that I can't really grumble.

20th September 2016

For me, it's all about the short session. It's all about the unknown and doing my own thing. Working hard for each fish I catch and hoping that the next one is a special one. Yeah ok they might not be 70lb plus but what they are,



are little gems that don't get targeted and rarely (if ever) see the bank. And finally, returning them how they came out... in perfect condition!

30th September 2016

Manflu finally gone and back behind the rods for a few hours this morning for the first time in well over a week. This is one from exactly 2 years ago so it felt right to drop on the same spot. Unfortunately, it was a quiet morning but great

to be back on it. Tight lines for the weekend and for those into your preds, happy new pike season.

2nd October 2016

Sun burning through the mist on a beautiful (but quiet) morning.

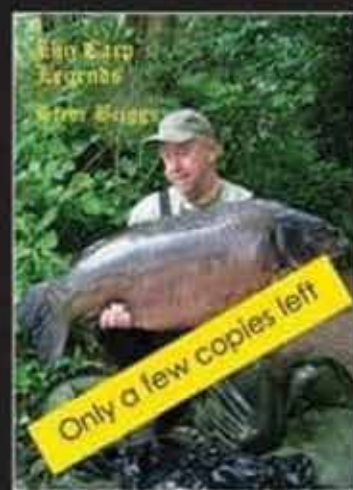
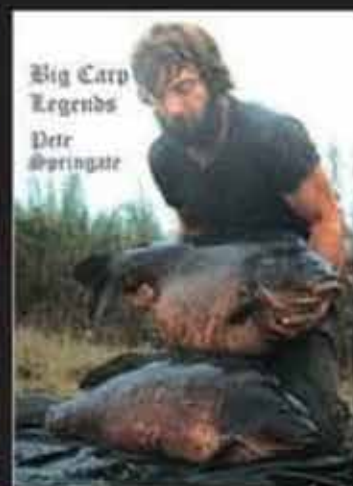
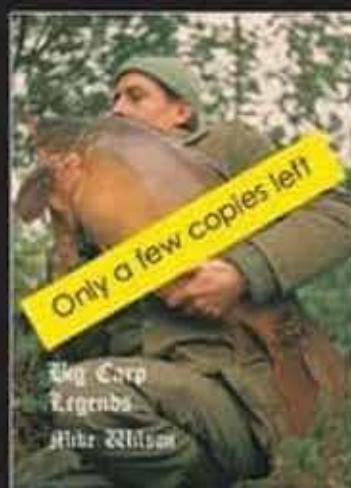
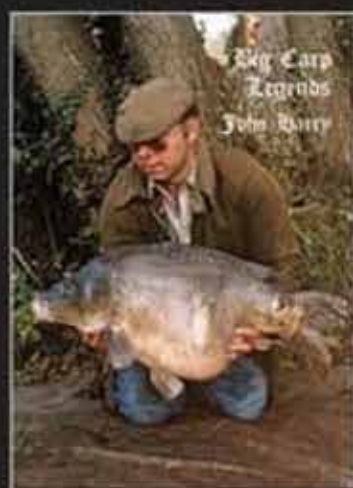
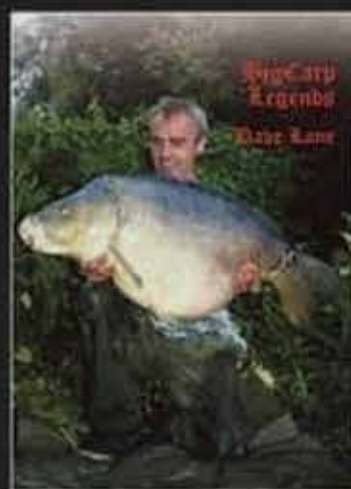
15th October 2016

Absolutely chuffed with this one from this morning's 4 hours. My first session in about 9 months on a water I briefly touched last winter and



BIG CARP LEGENDS SERIES

The anglers that shaped today's carp scene



07768 731425

<https://www.ebay.co.uk/usr/rarecarpbooksunlimited>
www.carpbooksonline.com

decided I would make more of an effort on this Autumn / Winter. Not sure what to expect from here but what an opening sesh.

28th October 2016

Cheeky little character from this morning. Obviously we all want the biggest fish going but its nice to have a glimpse at the future every now and again too. Almost certainly never seen a hook before and may not for quite some

years. They all count from off the canal! Tight lines for the weekend if your out!

10th November 2016

Tucked away in the hedge without a care is so much better than being in one of the 1000s of cars on the motorway behind me this morning... even when you blank.

16th November 2016

It was great to be on the bank last night with temps holding up and everything lit







up by the bright moonlight, even saw a couple of shooting stars and then the icing on the cake, this little wildy common which is the first fish (and on my first session) since having the privilege of joining the Nash bait team! Also managed a tench which is a very rare thing off the Staffs Worcs cut and a surprise predator too so a great little session and great things to come im sure.

17th November 2016

II put a predator on the bank (2 in fact) well here is the better of the two and Im chuffed with this one! I dont want to turn this into 'canal pike diary' but I can't 'not' post quality fish like this! Amazing what a 99p pack of herring from the supermarket can do!!!

2nd December 2016

Another perfect double figure canal pike on the bank this morning but the carp rods

motionless on December's first session. Besta luck for the weekend all!

16th Decembers 2016

Was great being back behind the rods this morning for a few hours. Even if the bream were throwing a party and i was providing the buffet!!!

31st December 2016

Well guys I hope you've all had a great Christmas and in fact a great 2016! Another year that's just flew past in

the blink of an eye!

I've been flicking through my photos from the last year and I haven't done as badly as I first thought, bit of rig trouble early on in the year resulting in some lost fish and very frustrating times but all sorted in the end some good characters on the bank, all but size really.

I think for me though, my fish of the year has to be the 7.14lb chub, another reason why I





love canal fishing so much but one of my favourite carp from this year I think has to be the one below taken on the same morning sesh as the chub, not the biggest but one of the lookers from this year imo.

With 2016 now over, I'm really looking forward to 2017 and in particular the next few months doing my own thing on different stretches of canal. Some brand-new stretches and some unfinished business but hopefully discovering a

few secrets along the way! I'm also hoping to get a few sessions on a river to grab my first river carp and to remind myself what a barbel looks like too!

There's sooo much angling to do and seemingly so little time to get it all done!

A massive thanks to everyone for following my diary, it's really appreciated and whatever your targets are for the year ahead, I hope you go out and smash them!!!





ROB BURGESS

ZIG RIG SUCCESS

It's that prime time of the year to be zig fishing. Here are my 2 go-to zig set ups

FIXED ZIG

1: Start by taking a spool of 9lb Zig Line and form a small

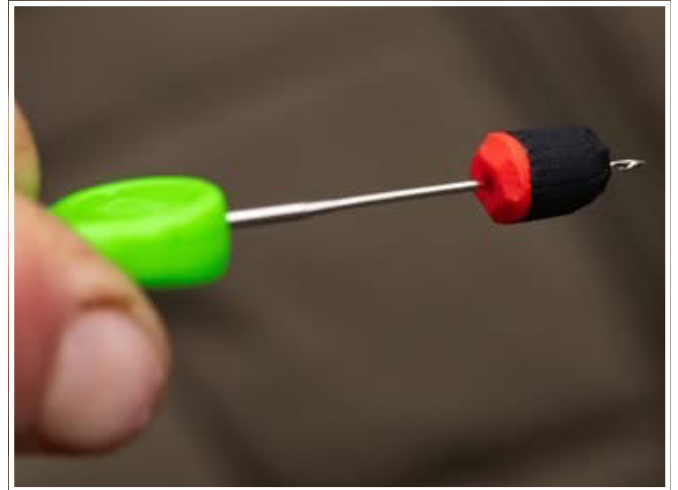


loop for the hair.

2: Now take a size 8 Mixa Hook and tie a knotless knot with a short hair.



3: Cut a 10mm piece of Silicone Tubing and thread onto the eye of the hook, this



will help open the gape and aid in hooking potential.

4: Attach your chosen hook bait, Rob favours black foam tipped with a fleck of red foam.

5: Measure your hook link to your desired length. tie a large figure of 8 loop and thread on

an Anti-Tangle Sleeve.-

6: Attach to a Lead Clip arrangement. Rob uses a standard Lead Clip with a Size 8 QC Swivel, and a Naked Tail Rubber, this improves the anti-tangle properties of the setup.



How To Set Up An Adjustable Zig Float

F1: Attach a 3oz Pear Lead to the stem and thread onto the mainline, followed by the Zig Float.



2: Tie on the QC Swivel provided and pull inside the float securing it in place.



3: Thread the Anti Tangle Sleeve onto your hook link and attach it to the QC Swivel.



4: Take a length of PVA tape and neatly wrap around the Zig Float. Nick the hook into the PVA Tape and the setup is ready to cast out.





SY TURNER

OFF THE MARK

After the bites that id got some unfinished business with, I came back had dried up at the back end of across mid-November and a last year an my 3 few nights in the conditions Main Targets been caught on took a turn for the worse the the lake next door I decided warm mild south westerly's I'd jump back on my old haunt had turned into bitterly cold for the Awinter for a couple North easterly's the fish had

topped showing and despite a move it was more than clear the cold snap had killed it up untill and all over the Christmas period with barely a sighting of a carp never mind a bite! I'd racked up maybe 25 blank nights since moving back over when out of nowhere temperatures started to stabilise and after a period of around 2 weeks of mild ish temperatures no frosts and a massive drop in the air pressure in January!

I thought if it's gonna happen then it's gonna happen now.

This is my window of opportunity although feeling slightly beat up and deflated it was game on, I was gonna give em some bait which I hadn't really done since the last time the lake had done a fish which to my knowledge was around mid November,

I got down late afternoon on the Thursday and just managed to get 3 rods on the money befor the light had completely



faded all 3 spots had different amounts of bait from a bag to 5 spombs to 8 spombs of the ever faithful Dark TNT all fished match the hatch Style with Dark TNT wafers,

As ever the cold wet and windy January night past with no action and due to the big south easterly Winds hacking in at me, I was never gonna here one show if they were too,

I was woken up early on the Friday to a couple of short bleeps , On inspection I had a big old trailing bramble resting across the right hand rod blowing about in the wind setting off the alarm, still being fairly dark and wanting to just close my eyes and go back to sleep I knew I had to deal with this Bramble, so I got up and removed the bramble as I'm stomping it back into the bush out of no where my middle rod started absolutely ripping!

I was away! and being stood right on the rods I was on it with in a second,

The rod hooped round and I was connected to Somthing that seemed to be heavy and holding its ground when all of a sudden I felt the pressure ease as the fish turned with that the line went slack!

I nearly threw up ! that one hurt that one hurt a lot, That was my first proper carp take in 45 nights across both lakes knowing all to well that could have quite possibly been the only bite I was gonna get! I was convinced I'd blown it and that was it that was my one chance done,

The weather stayed persistent and the next 48 hours went by without so much as bleep or a sighting when sat watching the water/ rods almost 48 hours later to the minute I had what I can only describe as a bit of tenchy take on the right hand rod which was fished on a closer on spot which at bite time really wasn't the one, So in a bit of a huff I went out to the

rods in the wind an rain picked up the rod and wound down to what I really though was sure to be a red eyed Tinker Then I felt the resistance! This ain't no Tench! I was only in again the lake hadn't done a bite since mid November and I've had 2 in 48 hours! absolutely Buzzin and immense relief to see this one finally role over the net cord after a short slow

an steady Battle,

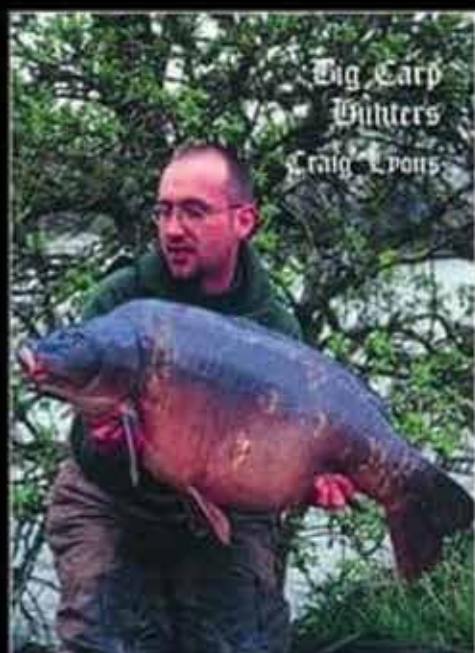
After a quick look it was clear to see it was one that Id had before a couple of times now so this will be the 3rd time! However I was always gonna have repeats when targeting only very a small number of fish,

First one of the year for me and first one of the year from the lake! Get up there BC

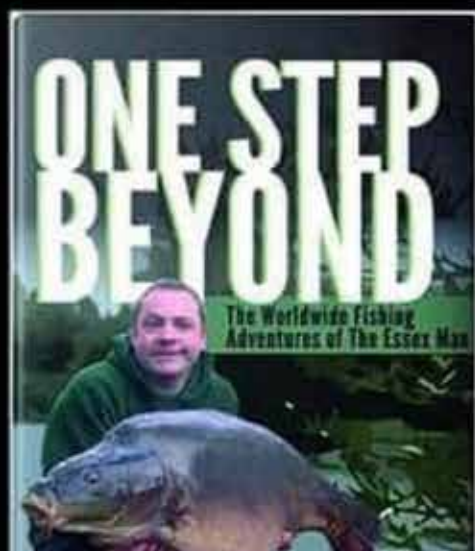
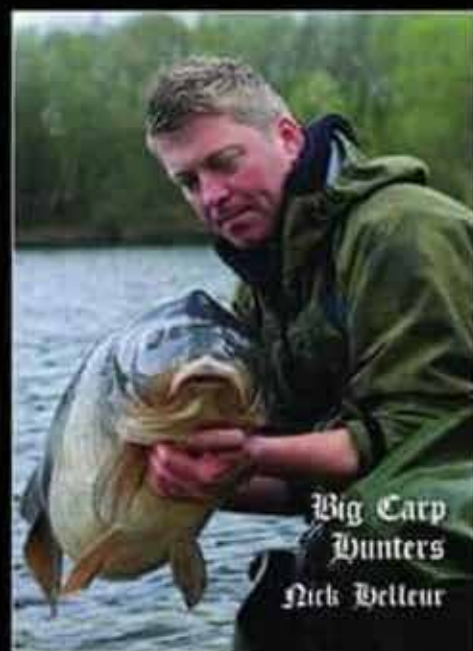
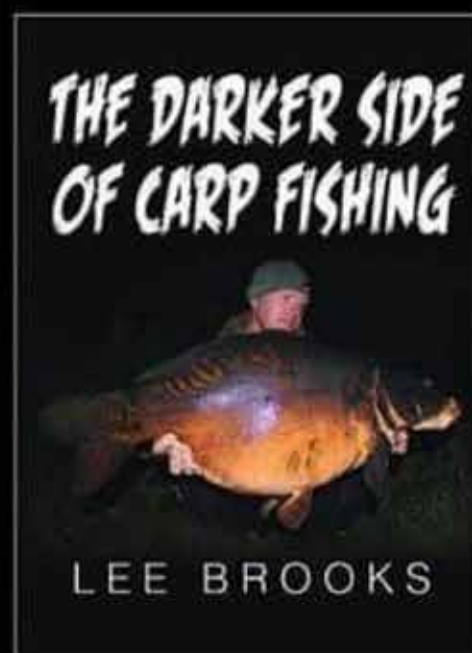
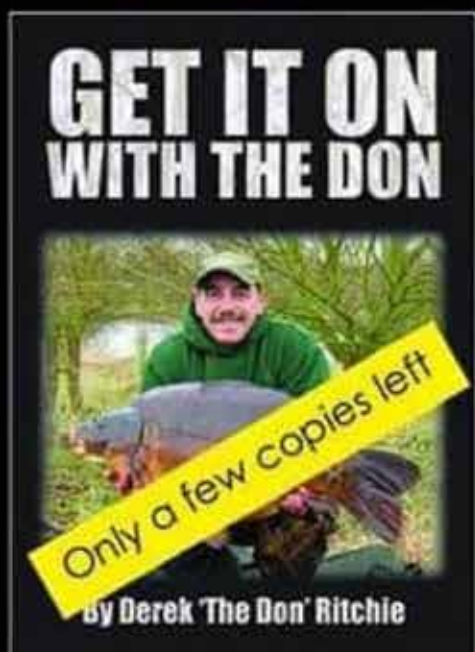
The Lemon at 39lb 4oz.



THE BIG CARP HUNTER SERIES



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



07768 731425

<https://www.ebay.co.uk/usr/rarecarpbooksunlimited>
www.carpbooksonline.com



SIMON SCOTT

SINGLE SLINGER

April is without doubt one of my favourite months to be outside, either at the lake, at the carp farm or in my garden. The marginal plats are bursting with fresh growth, the dawn chorus is at its very best and most importantly, the carp are becoming increasingly active. Steadily rising water temperatures and increased day lengths certainly trigger fish to start moving around their home and although it can be cool at night, fish are quick to seek warmth in the days.

I'm a great fan of single hookbaits at this time of year, and although I like to have spots primed, I'm always looking for an opportunity to fire a single at showing fish, so setting up with rigs I know will present, such as a hinge or chod is key

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.

SUPPORTED BY:

AnglingTimes.CO.UK

KORDA
THINKING TACKLE

trakker



catch

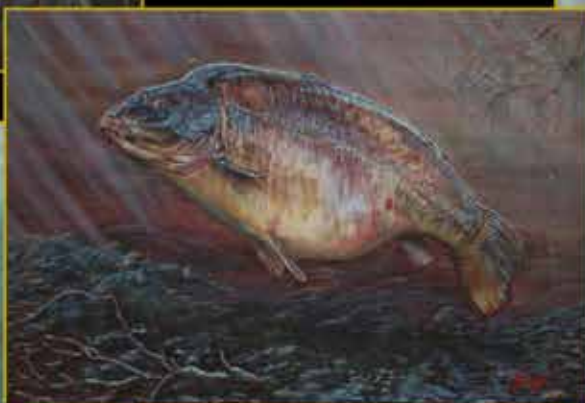


LIMITED EDITION • SIGNED AND NUMBERED

Legendary Carp Paintings



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



<https://www.ebay.co.uk/usr/rarecarpbooksunlimited>

Big Carp Magazine!

a history of excellence



AVAILABLE AS A DIGITAL DOWNLOAD

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



Available on the
App Store



Available on
Android

 **pocketmags.com**



APR 2026

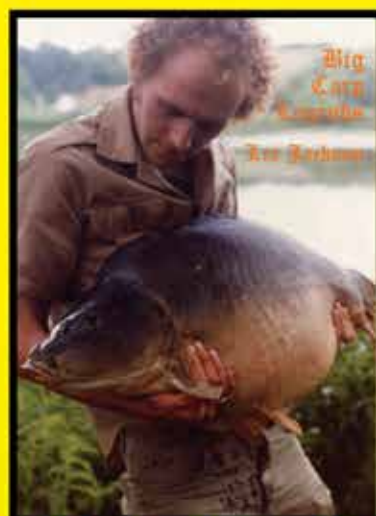
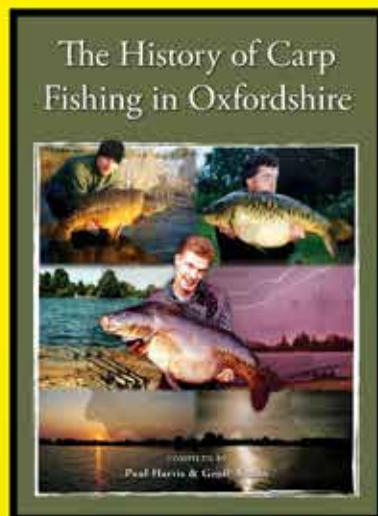
FREELINE

THE BIG PIT

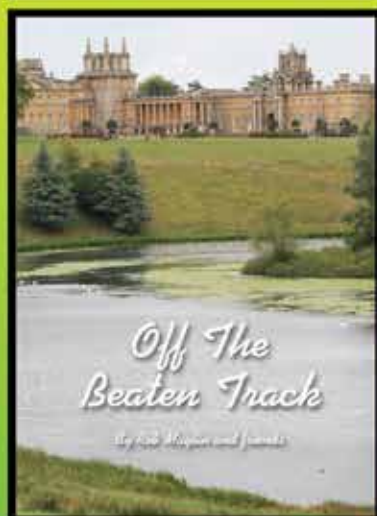
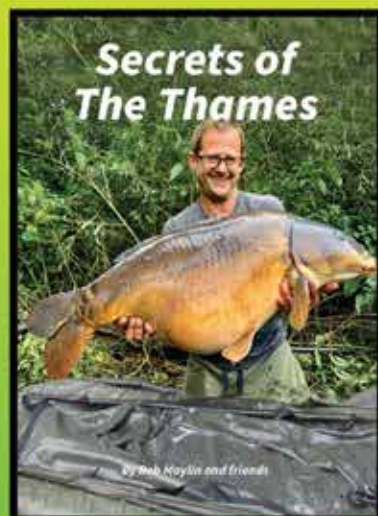
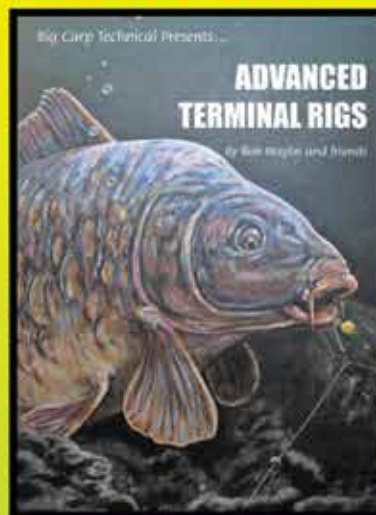
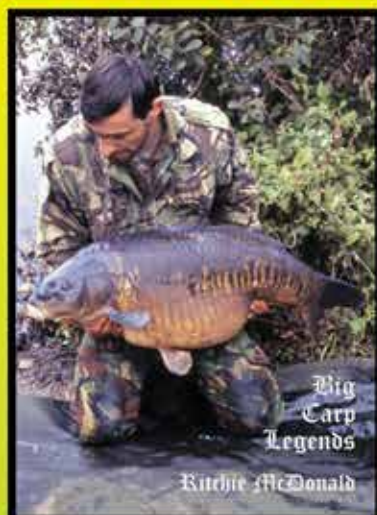


**KRIS BINGHAM
JOHN THORNLEY
TERRY DEMPSEY**

SPRING INT

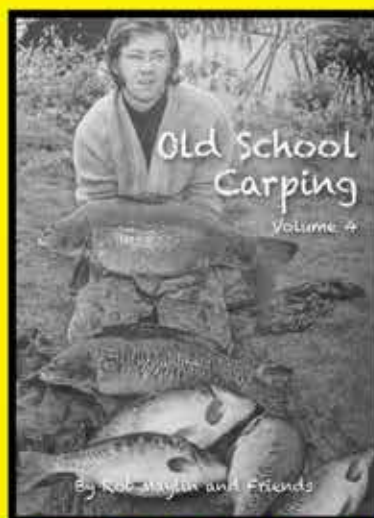
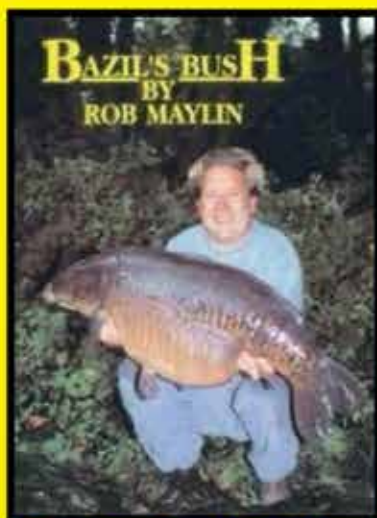


ORDER ONE OF OUR BEST SELLERS A

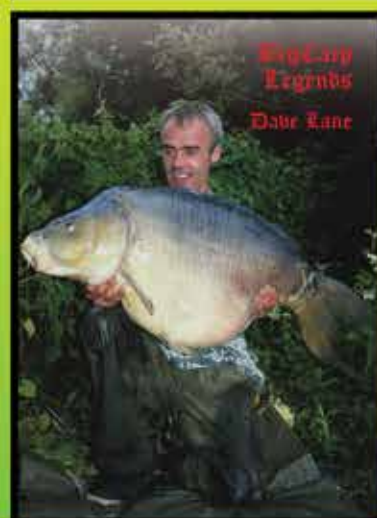
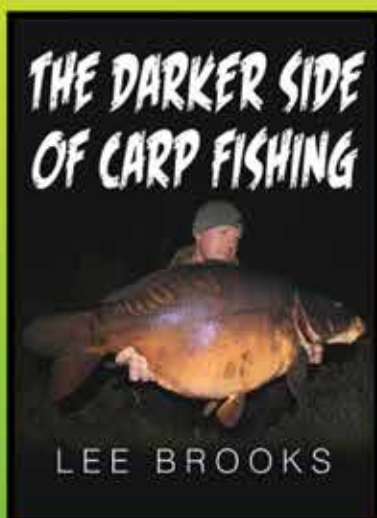
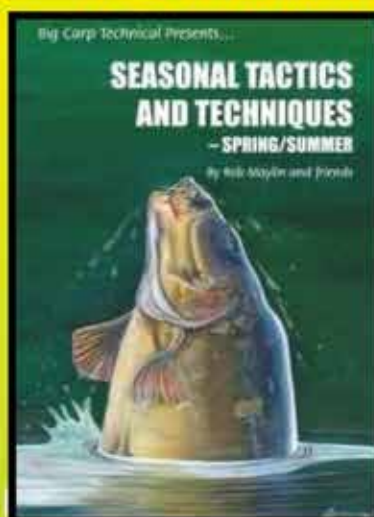
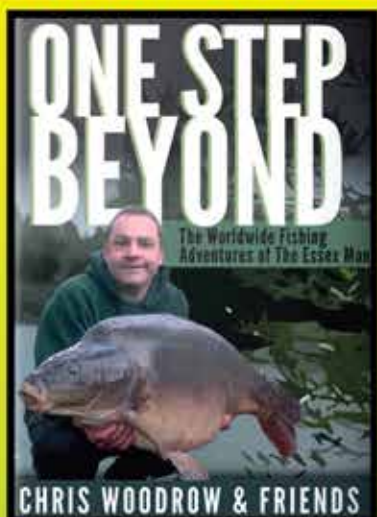


NEW BOOKS: WWW.C
NEW AND OLD BOOKS: WWW.EBAY.C

TO ACTION



AND BE PREPARED FOR THIS SEASON



CARPBOOKSONLINE.COM

CO.UK/USR/RARECARPBOOKSUNLIMITED

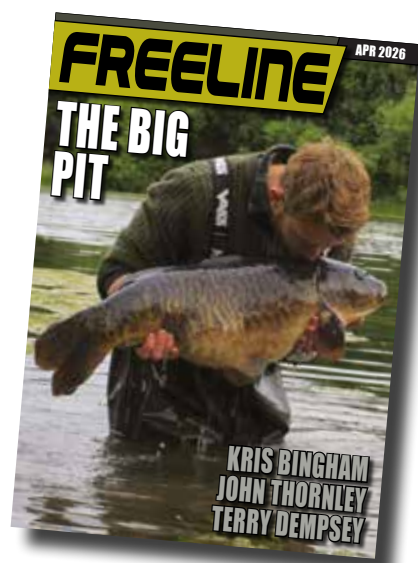
Rob's Ramblings

Editor/Publisher
Rob Maylin
Bountyhunter
Publications
44 Herbs End
Cove, Hampshire
GU14 9YD

07768 731425
bigcarpstudio@hotmail.
co.uk

Design & Production
James Harrison

Also available this
month Big Carp issue
356.



Front Cover:
Thomas Rossiter with a
big lke fully



Angling Trust Volunteers

The network of volunteers we have across the country is hugely impressive, and their work of supporting fisheries often goes unnoticed. They are usually the first to show up to litter-picks, receiving training to aid them on their regular patrols to help prevent poaching and fish theft, and the finest ones are upstanding pillars of their local communities.

Regional Enforcement Support Manager for the Midlands Kevin Pearson recognised Nigel Silverstone as one of those fine examples, presenting him with a Volunteering Excellence Award.

8. CARP CHAT

36. CARP SCENE

42. ANDY LITTLE

48. DARYL MOODY

52. JOHN THORNLEY

62. KRIS BINGHAM

76. LIAM BACKZ

80. TERRY DEMPSEY

98. THOMAS ROSSITER



DIGGER BOATS IN ACTION

Experts in Water-Based Machinery and Specialised Equipment for Ponds, Lakes and Waterways

AMPHIBIOUS DIGGER & DIGGER BOAT.



AMPHIBIOUS DIGGER: This is the power house of the fleet. Able to work on terrains where other diggers fear to go including soft clay, silt, mud and even able to float on water. This 3 ton digger can do anything a normal digger can do but it can do it in the middle of a lake!

DIGGERBOAT: A 2.2-ton machine that has a 360-digger arm mounted on a powerful work boat. This durable and powerful craft can clear huge amounts of spoil from midwater with its various attachments and transport it back to the bank leaving your watercourse clear and renewed.



07751 000790 / Info@diggerboats.com / www.diggerboats.com

DIGGER BOATS IN ACTION

Experts in Water-Based Machinery and Specialised Equipment for
Ponds, Lakes and Waterways

CUSTOMER REVIEWS



Neil Ellis recommends Digger Boats.

39m · 🌐

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



Mark Turrell

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



Top fan

Stuart Stockton

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



“

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

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

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



Stuart Stockton
Chesterton Community Angling Club



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

**07751 000790 / Info@diggerboats.com/
www.diggerboats.com**

BADEN HALL UPDATE



We've been busy behind the scenes again!

As part of our 2026 fishery plans, we netted Middle Pool on Monday to monitor the carp stock and thin out the bream and silvers. Nearly 800lb was moved across to Doughnut Pool for the match lads. The good news? The carp are looking spot on. Some absolute crackers in the nets before being returned safely. Middle is set to be a proper runs water this season! And don't forget... catch the Koi and you'll bag yourself a FREE 48-hour session! <https://www.badenhallfishery.com/>





HOLDING WATER COMPANIES AND REGULATORS TO ACCOUNT

RAFFLE TICKETS OUT NOW!

SUFFOLK WATER PARK 48 HOUR MATCH IN PARTNERSHIP
WITH SNAP CHARITY!

APRIL 10TH-12TH! RAFFLE DRAW 12TH APRIL

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE SHOP FOR £2 EACH!

SUFFOLK
WATER PARK



WITH CONFIRMED DONATIONS FROM THE FOLLOWING!



SUFFOLK
WATER PARK



DANSON PARK NEWS UPDATE



A friendly reminder for those fishing at Danson Park Lake. We've received a number of reports recently, so here's a quick reminder of the fishing rules to help everyone enjoy the lake responsibly:

Fishing is only allowed in the designated area during daylight hours. Night fishing is not permitted at any time of year. Bait boats and sling shots are not allowed on or near the lake

Please take home all equipment — especially fishing lines, which can harm wildlife

Following these rules helps keep the lake enjoyable for everyone. Don't forget, the closed season begins 16 March



**Fine quality fishing tackle
since 1857**

www.reubenheaton.com

For more on Reuben Heaton, Sportscale & RH brands
call 01455 293000 or email info@reubenheaton.com

Join Reuben Heaton on Facebook for all our latest news

REUBENHEATON



EAGLE CLAW
TROKAR



Exclusive distributors for eagle claw

ADDICTIV[®] BAIT'S CHALLENGE

FROM OCTOBER 24 TO OCTOBER 31, 2026

Entry fee: €1000 per team of 1, 2 or 3 people

Entry: £865 per team of 1, 2 or 3 People

2 rounds of 68 hours, including
1 rest night and 1 meal provided



**FISHABIL
LAKE**



Registrations & information:
contact@addictivbaits.com

PRIZES

🥇 1st place: €6,000

🥈 2nd place: €3,500

🥉 3rd place: €2,000

🐟 Biggest fish: €500

🐟 Smallest fish: €250

🐟 Biggest catfish: €250

+ Many other prizes to be won

BLUEBELL'S NEW OPENING HOURS



From Wednesday 1st of April our Summer Opening hours will be back and have now changed:

- Day Tickets Available: 7am until 7pm
- Tackle Shop Open: 7am until 7pm Seven days a week

Our current winter opening hours remain 8am until 6pm for ticket purchases and our tackle shop up until and including 31st March 2026

This is different from previous years so if you are planning on arriving in the evening, gates will close at 7pm from Wednesday 1st April.

CHILSTON NEW DAY TICKET STOCKING





CROWSHEATH



SOCIAL



2026

HOODY INCLUDED!

WORTH £49.99

21st Oct – 24th Oct

£160 Per angler

72 hours fishing

Bait Boats Allowed

Fish next to a mate

Breakfast and BBO Included





THE #1 FRENCH CARP FISHING VENUE

2 VENUES · 6 LAKES

OVER 4,000 CARPS

Average weight 35–42 lbs

Carp record 80 lbs+

Grass carp up to 80 lbs+

Koi carp up to 46 lbs+

Catfish up to 260 lbs+

Sturgeon up to 250 lbs+

ONLY 43 SWIMS

Across 6 lakes

240 acres of exclusive carp fishing

Huts · Safari tents · VIP swims

Carp fishing shop · Bar & restaurant

Tackle rental · Bungalows

Professional bailiff team - 7 days a week



+33 6 44 35 96 35



Iktus Béarn
Iktus Corrèze



@iktusbearn

www.iktus.fr





FISHING MATERIAL REPAIRS

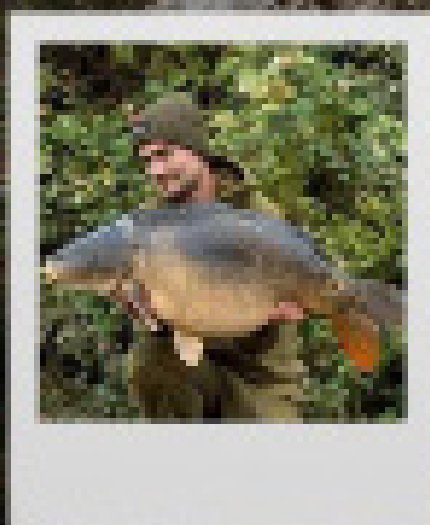
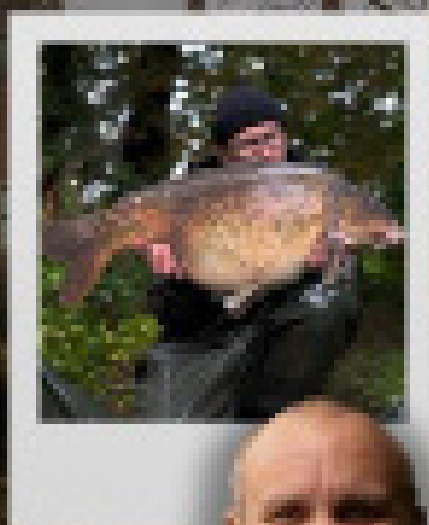
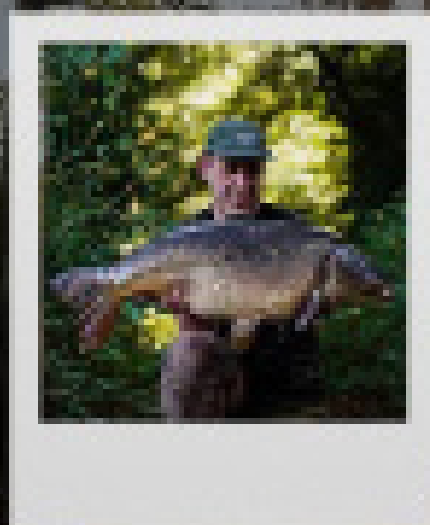
- *Rips & tears*
- *Net repairs*
- *Hemming & resizing*
- *Wader & fabric repairs*
- *Zippers & buttons reinfoforcements*
- *Sleeping bag repairs*

- ✓ *Fast turnaround*
- ✓ *Careful, durable stitching*
- ✓ *Fair prices*

Call Nat: 07591851241



JOIN TEAM NAKED BAITs



#getnaked
nakedbaits@gmail.com

LYMM ANGLING WAITING LISTS



Invites begin on 1st February and here's how it will work:

Invites will be sent in batches of 250, strictly in the order people joined the waiting list

Each batch will have 48 hours to sign up and complete payment before the next batch is invited

This will continue until we reach our season membership target, at which point membership will close

Important to know:

If you don't manage to purchase within your 48-hour window, you haven't lost your chance. You can still buy a membership for as long as memberships remain open — however, demand is high, so we strongly recommend signing up as soon as your invite arrives to avoid disappointment.



CROWSHEATH 2026 PRICES

EFFECTIVE FROM APRIL 1ST 2026

SPECIMEN LAKE

12hrs **£20**

24hrs **£35**

CROWSNEST

12hrs **£20**

24hrs **£40**

CARP CANAL & PLEASURE LAKE

12hrs **£10**

24hrs **£20**

CROWSHEATH FISHERY

MEMBERSHIP PRICES

- Midweek Annual (Specimen, Canal, Pleasure) – **£350**
- Midweek Annual (Crowsnest) – **£350**
- Midweek Annual (All 4 Lakes) – **£450**

Midweek annual memberships cover Sundays 7pm - Fridays 7pm.

No bank holidays. 12 months from the day you pay.

To get booked on or for more info
give us a call on **07402 298218**.

To get booked on or for more info

give us a call on 07402 298218

PAVYOTTS MILLS GETS NEW STOCK

We've introduced a fresh batch of quality fish into the maze lake to keep sport high and rods bending. The new arrivals are settling in well and already showing across several areas of the water.

This stocking is part of our ongoing commitment to maintaining healthy fish stocks, great sport, and an enjoyable experience for all anglers visiting the lake.

The new fish range between 30lb to 40lb

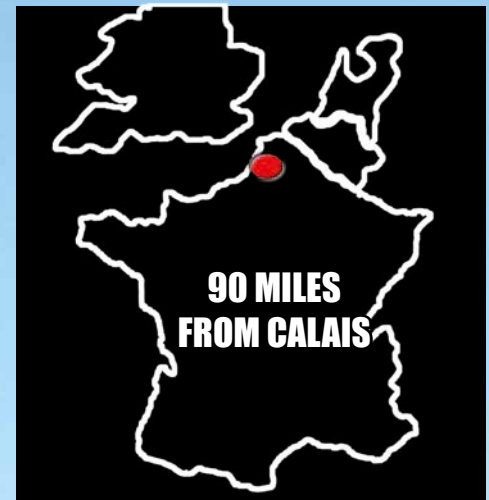
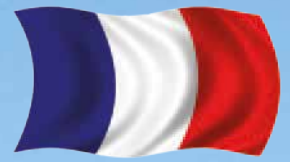
Please ring the office for your 2026 bookings:

07913953844



Experience the big carp venue in northern France

Only 1 hr 1/2
from Calais !



Val Dore Lakes

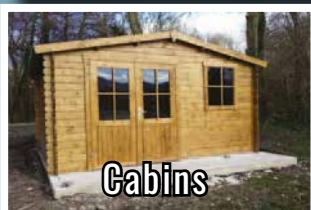
ONLINE
BOOKING
AVAILABLE

WEB : WWW.VALDORE.COM
email : contact@valdore.com



**CARP AVERAGE
WEIGHT : 30 lb
CARPS up to 74 lb...!**

- £255 / angl / week
- 6 lakes - 60 acres
- 24 tons of carp
- Restaurant / Bar
- Wifi - Elect on swim
- Carpark on all swims
- Log cabins
- Tackle shop



Cabins



Tackle shop



Restaurant

FREE BROCHURE :

Call evening

00 33 608 109 134

english spoken

or email us : contact@valdore.com

LINEAR GO BIG ON THINKING ANGLERS



Big restock of Thinking Anglers just arrived in the shop. Plenty of Zig Kickers and Barrels, Mainline and Braid, Terminal Tackle and more. Pop in and have a look and start getting stocked up for the Spring.

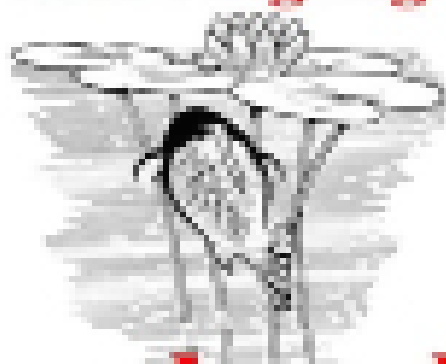
All shop inquiries call 01865 548199.

SUMMERS POND FREE FISHING TUITION DAY



FREE Fishing Tuition Day We're delighted to be hosting a free fishing tuition day in partnership with Sussex & Surrey Angling Tuition at Summers Ponds Fishery & Campsite. Date: 6th June 2026 Who: Ideal for beginners and anyone looking to build confidence Cost: Completely free (advance booking required) All equipment is provided, along with expert guidance, making this a perfect opportunity to learn to fish in a relaxed and beautiful setting. Book your place here: <https://swimbooker.com/event/f2fa7659-1754-4198-a22e-8b4f29b691ba> Facebook link: <https://fb.me/e/6YY8UjS6D> Spaces are limited and booking is essential. See you there

Newland Angling Club



Membership Renewals

Available Now

From State Tackle, Witney.
Please bring your old 2025 card

Membership Fees 2026/2027

Seniors = £85.00

Juniors = £10.00

O.A.P. = £40.00

Lakes Night Fishing Supplement

Adults = £85.00 Juniors = £20.00

(Occ. Passport also please needed for Night Supplement.)

**New memberships available from
Wednesday 1st April 2026**

OCTOPUS BAIT'S TEAM PLACES



We are now actively looking to expand the Octopus Baits Team.

It is about dedicated anglers, consistent results, and representing a bait brand built on quality ingredients, proven performance, and attention to detail.

We're looking for anglers who take pride in how they fish, what they use, and how they conduct

themselves on the bank. What we're looking for:

Carp anglers who fish all seasons. A genuine belief in high-quality bait. Professional bankside conduct. Clean, considered catch photography. Honest feedback and long-term commitment. Just anglers who value quality and fish with intent.

What we offer:

Team-level bait support and preferential pricing.

Early access to new developments.

Input into future bait work.

Backing from a growing, premium UK bait brand.

A focused team environment.

Day ticket and syndicate anglers considered.

Applications via the website. We're building a team that reflects the standards behind the bait.

RIP JAY MUNGO CATER

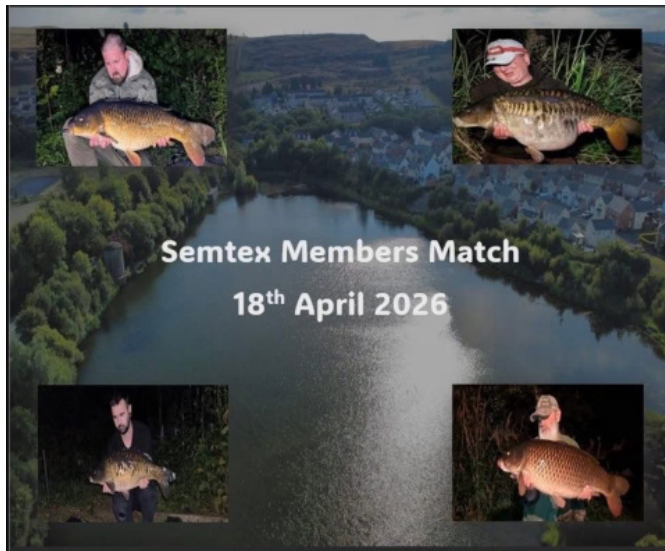


It's with great sadness i write this devastating status , early this morning the Fishing industry lost a very dear friend to ALL Jay Mungo Cater , , i can't express the sadness we all feel ,Jay is a true legend of a man an went above & Beyond in helping ACA reach such amazing heights and helping so so many families& children along the way ,, The big fella is now in the arms of his amazing father Roger & mother Christine , , , my heart really really goes out to all his Family & Friends and team RidgeMonkey . You'll be sorely missed my friend



15 LAKES TO CHOOSE FROM
CARP TO 40KG (88LB)
MOST LAKES HAVE CARP TO 35KG (77LB)
HIGH STOCKING DENSITY
1 HOUR SOUTH OF PARIS
370 ACRE SITE IN UNSPOILT COUNTRYSIDE
WWW.CARPA-SENS.FR
+33 6 31 63 07 71

SEMTEX LAKE PAIRS MATCH



CDAA are delighted to announce a 24-hour pairs match at one of our standout venues Semtex Lake, Brynmawr.

This match is open to all members, and is especially aimed at those who may not yet have had the opportunity to fish Semtex. You do not

require a night syndicate membership to enter this competition. We're excited to showcase the incredible transformation the lake has undergone, thanks to the monumental efforts of our club volunteers and members.

The match will take place over Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th of April. Prime time with carp being at their top weights before spawning, this isn't an opportunity to be missed.

Entries are limited to a maximum of 9 pairs, with places allocated strictly on a first come, first served basis to keep things fair for all.

Booking will be available via Clubmate from Friday 24th March. Further information regarding rules, requirements, prizes, and other useful details please message the club if you require any further details.

This promises to be a fantastic weekend of great fishing, plenty of banter, and socialising in a truly stunning location.

JOIN JH BAIT



We're now looking to expand the JH Baits Team for the 2026 season. This isn't about follower counts or forced posts — it's about real anglers, real results, and representing a bait brand that's built on quality, consistency, and proven performance.

What we're looking for:

Passionate carp anglers who fish regularly. Anglers who genuinely believe in using quality bait. A positive attitude and good conduct

on the bank. Willingness to represent JH Baits honestly and professionally. Catch reports, photos, and occasional feedback on products

What you'll get:

Team-only bait support & discounts. Early access to new products. Direct input into bait development. Backing from a growing UK bait brand. A proper team environment — no ego, no nonsense.

All styles of angling considered: Day ticket or syndicate anglers. Send us:

- A short intro about yourself

- Where you fish & how often
- A few recent catch photos

CHRIS PEARSON RIP BY DAVE LANE



I can't believe I am here, again. Saying goodbye to another of my closest friends, CP, a true legend in every sense of the word.

I have deliberately picked this old and battered picture as I still remember the details so well, CP had just caught the

Eye, the biggest in the land at that time but, shortly before, he had been running across the out of bounds woods at Sonning, chasing Storm Dog with a big stick for straying up to my bivvy for a cuddle and a biscuit, again.

I was rolling around laughing and Storm thought it was all a big game.

Every day with CP was an adventure, I have a million stories of him, a character so much larger than life that only those lucky enough to have known him could ever, even start to understand.

CP, for all his shenanigans and dodgy dealings, had the most amazing moral code. Family and close friends were his life and he took no prisoners outside this circle; you were either a “Good old Boy” or a “Bad Bastard” there were no grey areas.

He had an entire language of his own, punctuated by words he had made up or mis-pronounced and the classic ‘Drismal’ has now become a standard description of a dull wet day for nearly everyone I know.

We first met in a grass car park next to Horton about 30 years ago, while queuing for the start of the season the following morning, by midnight we were firm friends and thirty years later we were like brothers.

He called me ‘Raver’ from day one, and I will always hear that voice in my head “kettle on Raver” or “You know the flavour Raver” if we were in agreement on one of the many things we planned, plotted or schemed.

He was, quite literally, one of a kind and, also, one of an ever-decreasing breed of good men that know right from wrong and choose whichever one is best on the day.

We will miss him dearly.

ESP QUICKDRAW BROLLY



The ultra popular Quickdraw Brolly in warmer times.. Roll on spring! ESP Quickdraw Brolly — Key Specs & Info. If you're after a proper mobile carp shelter, the ESP Quickdraw is designed for short sessions, stalking and overnights where speed and low bulk matter.

Material & Build

- 210D dark olive fabric

- 5,000mm waterproof rating
- Light-proof inner laminate (cooler & less glare inside)
- 8.5mm fibreglass ribs with space-saving locking hub

What's included

- Moszy drape front (toggle fit – no zips to jam)
- Mini detachable groundsheet
- 4 storm poles (2 short, 2 long)
- Peg set & carry bag

Features anglers care about

- Quick setup & pack away — ideal for mobile fishing
- Fits most bedchairs and rod holdalls
- Adjustable storm sides (3 pegging points) for weather or uneven banks
- Good visibility of the water while sat inside
- Moszy mesh for summer nights without fully closing the shelter

A really practical “grab and go” broly — quicker than a bivvy but still proper protection from rain, wind and insects.

Available Sizes

- 52” version
- 58” version (more headroom & bedchair space)

Dimensions

52” – 220cm (W) x 178cm (D) x 100–120cm (H)

58” – 250cm (W) x 185cm (D) x 110–130cm (H)

Weight (full system inc Moszy mesh, pegs, bag, 4 poles, etc)

- 52” – approx 5.7kg
- 58” – approx 6kg

NITE MX10 STORM



Another new edition to our best-selling MX10 Series has arrived. Stainless steel hour and minute hands catch a subtle sheen at the twist of your wrist, while clean light grey numerals and a sleek gloss white second hand keep the dial crisp and effortlessly legible. The unmistakable marks of a great field watch.

But look closer. The MX10 Storm features green and orange tritium illumination, with a striking orange tritium second hand that adds just the right point of functional difference. Choose your setup: rugged rubber, classic webbing, or a matching brushed stainless steel bracelet.



ULTRALOCK

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

www.sharptackle.co.uk



RIDGEMONKEY BOILIE CRUSHER



If you've not seen the Advanced Boilie Crusher, where have you been?

When it comes to carp angling, bait prep is everything - and the Advanced Boilie Crusher is a serious edge. Whether you're crushing boilies to bulk out a spod mix or loading solid PVA bags, this tool gives you complete control over your mixes



Perfect for creating a consistent crumb, it helps release attraction fast and keeps carp feeding longer over your spot. No more smashing bait by hand - just clean, efficient and repeatable results every time you prep

Built tough for life on the bank, the Advanced Boilie Crusher is easy to use, easy to clean, and packs away neatly inside its own bag. It's ideal for long sessions, overnights, or quick trips when you want consistency in your bait application

If you're serious about carp fishing and want to sharpen your approach, this is one bit of kit you'll use session after session. Once it's in your armoury, you'll never leave home without it



BAIT STRUCTURE: CARBOHYDRATES

Although they are present in small amounts, the smallest of all the organic constituents of the formula $C_6H_{12}O_6$, there is a great variety of naturally occurring types, from very simple forms containing three carbon atoms to very complex forms containing thousands of carbon atoms. They are of fundamental importance to all forms of life and are produced initially by plants, algae, and some bacteria by the process of photosynthesis. Photosynthesis uses light energy from sunlight to convert the atmospheric gas carbon dioxide (CO_2) and water (H_2O) carbohydrate. The green plant pigment chlorophyll is needed to effect this reaction. The equation for this reaction is usually expressed as:- $6CO_2 + 6H_2O \xrightarrow{\text{SUNLIGHT \& CHLOROPHYLL}} C_6H_{12}O_6 + O_2$ (oxygen is a waste product).

The oxygen given off by this process is how aquatic plants oxygenate the water. (We are also dependent on plants for our own oxygen supply). Much of the carbohydrate produced is used to supply energy for survival, growth and reproduction

by converting (burning) glucose back to CO_2 and H_2O in the presence of oxygen producing large amounts of ATP (remember 36 molecules of ATP per molecule of glucose). In the absence of oxygen, the process is much less efficient, and large amounts of lactic acid are produced.

*ATP ADENOSINE TRIPHOSPHATE

The carbohydrate glucose not used for energy production is converted into complex carbohydrates (polysaccharides), which includes such things as starch, cellulose, glycogen, pectin, munn and xylans. The compounds are used either as reserves of energy, e.g. starches glycogen and inulin, or for structural support, e.g. cellulose, xylans and chitin. Plants for example may contain as much as 50% (by dry weight) of cellulose, and this material provides the plant with a skeleton. (Each plant cell, has a wall consisting of cellulose). They can be extremely hard materials too; the lignins and xylans give wood its structural strength and hardness. Seeds, particularly grains and cereals, are rich in the starches to provide a food reserve for the seedling. As you must have now worked out for yourself, 'plants' are a rich source of carbohydrates and therefore take up the first place in any food chain. (They are known as primary products). A good way of estimating the potential of a fishery is to look at the amount of primary products the plants or algae present in summer.

Carbohydrates and Carp

Cellulose is probably the most abundant natural carbohydrate and a good place to begin. Cellulose is composed of linked glucose molecules linked B1 - 4 that is N = approximately 3000 glucose molecules. So cellulose is potentially a rich source of

energy. Unfortunately the ability to use cellulose as an energy source is not open to many animals; ruminants (cattle etc.) have evolved a unique four-chambered stomach to digest it. Carp do process the enzyme cellulase, which releases the glucose molecules from the molecule, but this enzyme only works at temperatures above 24 degrees C, which means that the British carp population can only use cellulose rarely as an energy source (in warm summers). Undigested cellulose provides a high fibre diet. Cellulose does have one application in fishing as a bait binder. (Wallpaper paste is made of cellulose.) Used in the right concentration, it forms strong gels in nature to obtain any benefit from cellulose, and the fish must feed on aquatic inhabitants that can utilise it.

Starches

Carp possess the full range of enzymes to utilize starches, i.e., amylases, maltases and invertase (remember complex molecules need to be broken down into their basic units before they can be used for energy), thus grains and cereals offer themselves as a rich food source for the fish. As both cellulose and starches are large relatively insoluble substances, they have a very bland taste and are unlikely to serve as attractors or flavours. The attraction potential of these products is most probably related to the range of small molecules attracted to them. Seeds and cereals, e.g. nuts, particles, semolina, barley, etc., will contain a whole range of oils, proteins and amino acids. Chitin, the tough material that makes up the exoskeleton of many invertebrates, is also an important dietary component; there are however doubts about its digestibility.

Simple Sugars

These consist of just one or two molecules linked together. Sugar examples are:

Sucrose. Two linked are: Glucose and fructose. Sucrose is the produce of sugar cane and sugar beet and is the common refined sugar.

Maltose. Two linked sugars are Glucose and Glucose. This is the common product of the enzyme cleavage of starch.

Lactose. Two linked sugars are Lactose and Glucose. This is the milk sugar, and it's found in all milks. They are known as disacchorides (di = two sugar residues). They require the action of inverlase to make them available to enzymes to mainstream metabolism.

Glucose, also known as extrose, has been previously described.

Tractose. Nearly as important in metabolism as glucose.

Ribose: A five-carbon sugar important structurally for (DNA). (RNA). DNA Deoxyribonucleic acid.

RNA – Ribonucleic acid. Simple sugars such as those listed are not likely to occur in any significant quantities in the diet of fish. They appear in the blood and tissues due to the action of enzymes on the commonly occuring dietary polysaccharides. They are also produced by the conversion of other compounds, particularly some amino acids, particularly glutamate, alanine, argmime, glutamine and asparlate. Glycerol from fats and oils is also important in this process. Glucenogenesis occurs at its highest levels during periods of carbohydrate starvation.

Importance and Uses of Simple Sugars.

As you must be well aware, the simple sugars are powerful sweetening agents and are readily soluble in water. It is interesting to note that honey, a long-favoured sweetener/

attractor is rich in fructose, a sugar found mostly in fruits. Carbohydrates in the diet are essential and are used mainly for energy production. The energy is important in the assimilation of proteins. If the diet is deficient in carbohydrates, many of the amino acids liberated from the protein will be converted to glucose to provide energy for the remainder to be incorporated as new protein. Commercially prepared carp feed pellets contain 8% glucose to provide the energy needed for maximum growth/protein synthesis. Energetically, one molecule of glucose will provide the energy for approximately 17 amino acids to be linked or about half of one small protein.

Carbohydrates not needed for immediate energy requirements are converted to glycogen or fat. Glycogen is broken down rapidly on demand, particularly under stress conditions promoted by adrenalin, the flight or fight hormone. During the fight the fish rapidly depletes its glycogen store, which can take up to two days to replace. Large amounts of lactic acid accumulate in the muscles during the rapid utilisation of glycogen. This can result in lactic acid shock, often lethal if the fight is unduly prolonged.

To sum up: dietary carbohydrate is essential and will be obtained by the fish feeding on vegetable matter, insects, molluscs, crustaceans and other fish. This carbohydrate will be in the form of large polysaccharides. Polysaccharides, when bought and used in pure form, are bland and poorly soluble so are unlikely to be useful as attractors but will make good bait binders. Simple sugars are very effective sweeteners and attractors. In the natural world, carbohydrates are the vehicle used to process the sun's energy into chemical energy useful for living organisms.



SPECIAL OLD LIME FROM A CLUB WATER

I had been watching this one along with three other of the originals over my bait in the torrential rain taking the odd free offering in depths of no more than 3ft. Put it this way, you could see them better than your own hand. You could see the point when their behaviour changed as they realised there was food, as they would swim by slowly and circle to look for line in others area. A mixture of RGs Baits Formula and Vitalac freebies with a handful of maize for visual and hemp to keep them rooting around was the lead-up to this one taking a Formula wafter. I love a crusty old battleaxe!

DARYL MOODY



DIGGER BOATS

Experts in Water-Based Machinery and Specialised Equipment for Ponds, Lakes and Waterways



BEFORE lilly removal



AFTER lilly removal

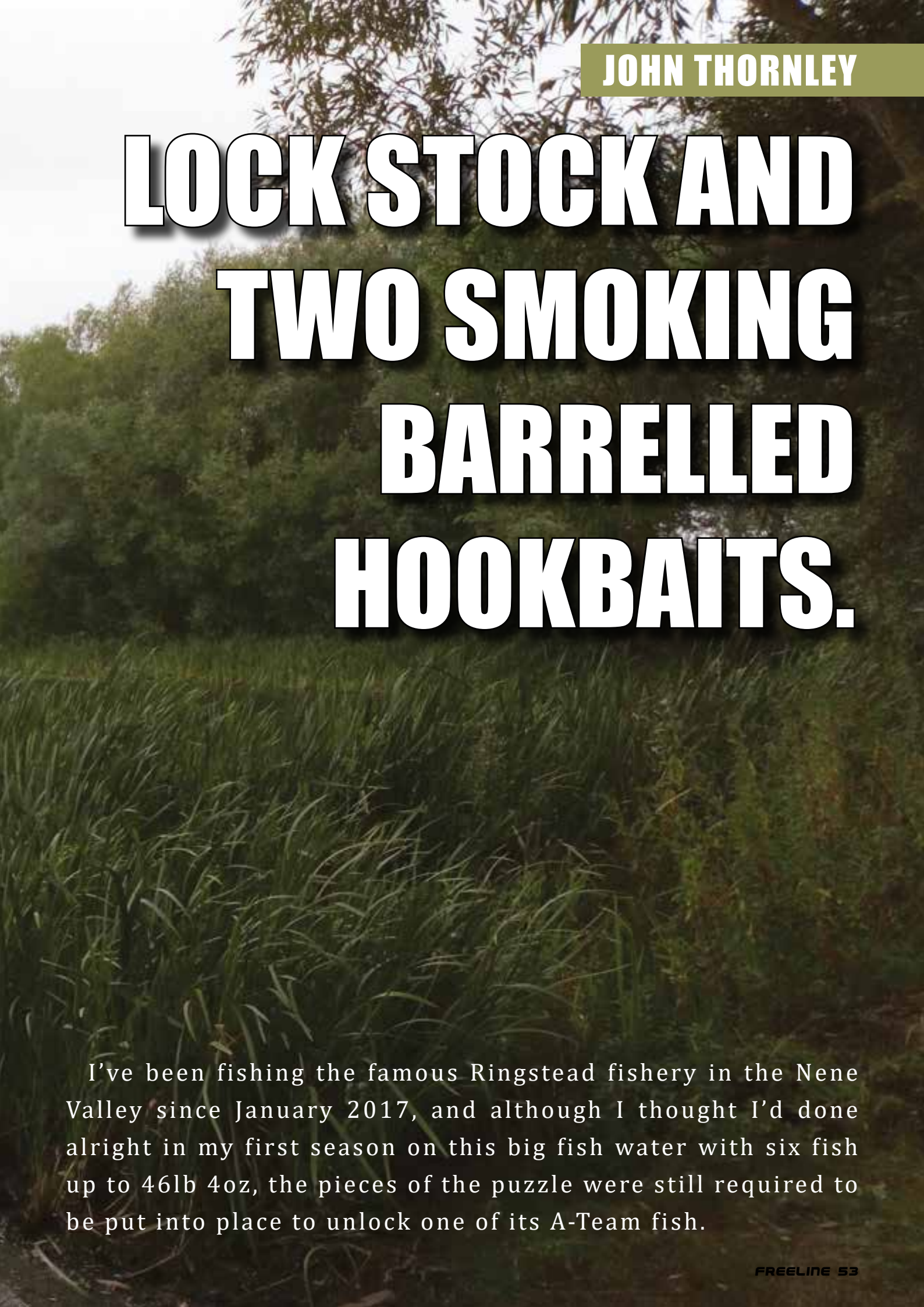
DiggerBoats.com is an established watercourse restoration company with equipment and machines that can help with any aquatic project anywhere in the UK. Get in touch for a free site survey and estimate.

07751 000790 / Info@diggerboats.com / www.diggerboats.com

CLICK HERE TO SEE US IN ACTION:







JOHN THORNLEY

LOCK STOCK AND TWO SMOKING BARRELLED HOOKBAITS.

I've been fishing the famous Ringstead fishery in the Nene Valley since January 2017, and although I thought I'd done alright in my first season on this big fish water with six fish up to 46lb 4oz, the pieces of the puzzle were still required to be put into place to unlock one of its A-Team fish.



The summer of 2017 was granite on there for me and really taught me a lesson about making the most of your time on the bank instead of just following the crowds, filling it in and camping behind the rods with long periods of inactivity. I knew that I had to do something different to the norm this season to produce the bites from the bigger fish in the lake. I started my 2018 campaign in March just as the Beast from the East decided to visit the Nene Valley area. It was to be the coldest winter in the last few decades, and it knocked the fishing back for a fair few weeks.

With this in mind, I decided to start my spring campaign at the beginning of April and managed to use this time on the

bank to fish areas of the lake that weren't as busy as the main open water swims. The swim that I really fancied was called the Aviary, which is located in the northeast corner of the lake. The swim has a lovely margin area that slopes off into 10ft of water. I'd worked out that the fish like to spend a great deal of time sunbathing in this area by watching their behaviour from up the trees throughout the summer of 2017. They would quite happily spend the late morning and afternoons in the margin of the Aviary after their main morning feed out in the deeper area of the lake.

I knew that the prep work with the leading rod would pay off in this area if I could locate a few good spots. One of these areas was at the base of the marginal shelf in 8ft of water. The spot was no bigger than dustbin lid and was surrounded by Canadian weed. It was a nice small gravel spot that the fish had kept clean and was worth placing rig on with a few handfuls of bait over it. Would it trip one of the bigger fish up on its way back from the main dinner table?

I ended up having seven takes and landing six fish in 21 nights throughout April and May, and four of those takes came off the dustbin lid spot. Although I was happy with the prep work and the number of takes, the average size of the fish was only 15lb. I ended up with the nickname of the Stockie King, which didn't worry me, as I knew my tactics and bait were working, and consistency and confidence has always played a massive part in my fishing.

I pulled off the lake at the end of May, as the fish were due to spawn in June, and the lake normally closes down for their annual spawning activities. I left them to it and enjoyed several weeks of hot weather with my family, waiting for the weather



to change and a low-pressure system make an appearance.

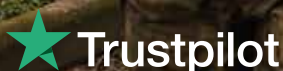
Finally, after what like seemed an age, there was a break in the hot weather system, and a low pressure front was forecast for the weekend of August 10th with a southwesterly wind due that would push into the banks of the Aviary swim. This weather system also coincided with a new moon phase – another thing that I base my sessions around, as I’m a big believer in the forces of the moon.

I prepped my gear and kept an eye on the weather forecast. The southwesterly was due to arrive on the Friday morning, and I arranged my session to arrive at the lake on Friday evening after work. On arrival, I noticed that four of the main swims were taken, and I decided to head round to main lodge

THE ORIGINAL BRITISH TRITIUM WATCH COMPANY



NITE MAVERICK
FORMER ROYAL MARINE
DAVE COLEMAN
WEARS THE HAWK



Reviews 5,768 • Excellent



For the past three years, Dave Coleman, Former Royal Marine and his team of instructors have all been testing their HAWK watches to the limits in mud, wet, cold and extreme outdoor conditions whilst pushing recruits to hell and back.

Did the HAWK let them down?... NO

Nite watches are continuously put to the test by our Mavericks and come with a 5 Year Warranty, Swiss movements, super bright tritium illumination and most importantly a build quality that is designed to be used and abused by those who live for the outdoors.



SWISS-MADE
MOVEMENT



TRITIUM
ILLUMINATION



SAPPHIRE
CRYSTAL



5 YEAR
WARRANTY

PROVEN THROUGH  PASSION

NITEWATCHES.COM

FREELINE 57



to have a look at the catch report and say hello to a few of the syndicate members fishing the opposite bank to the Aviary.

I'd only been standing on the opposite bank to the Aviary for five minutes when a fish stuck its head out in the margins of the Aviary, which was all I needed to see. I was soon heading round to the Aviary to get the rods out for the night. It was one of those occasions when everything goes right, and I got the rods out onto the spots without any dramas. Someone must have been smiling down on me that Friday evening. It started to rain around 8pm, and I saw another three fish show in the swim before it got dark.

I like to get up early on the first morning of my session, as we all know it's the best time to watch the water. One of the other members had caught a mid 30lb mirror in the night,

and there were signs that they were still feeding out in the deeper water in front of me, so I was hoping they would end up coming closer in to the margins as the morning wore on.

I'd just said farewell to one of the other members, as they were leaving the lake, and I went and sat back down on my bedchair. At 10.30am, I had a massive drop back on the rod on the dustbin lid spot. I looked at the line, and it had moved around 12ft to the left of the spot as the fish realised it had made a mistake by picking up the double barrel Liver Supreme hook bait from Sterling Baits.

On went the chesties, and I flicked off the alarm and picked the rod up, pulling the line out of the clip and winding down to the fish. I was expecting another stockie to be on the end of the rig sulking in the weed, but that was until the rod bent over and I realised it was no stockie. The fish rolled, and I realised I was attached to one of the A-Team, as its sheer bulk rocked the surface of the lake. With steady pressure applied, I got it moving towards me until it held its ground, using its weight to move along the marginal shelf in front of me.

There's one fish in particular that is known to do this, as my good friend Chris Johnson had described the fight to me when he caught it last season. The nerves started to creep in, but I gently coaxed the fish up the shelf and towards me. The terminal tackle and size 4 hook did its job as its head hit the spreader block and the fish's massive frame was engulfed by my net. It was at that moment that I realised that I had Ringsted's mighty Lock Stock in the bottom of the net and all that preparation through the snow, ice and rain of the spring had paid off.

I'd like to thank Alan Tring of Sterling Baits and my bro

JOHN THORNLEY

Chris Johnson for helping me talk Lock Stock onto the bank that weekend. For the record, Lock Stock weighed in at 49lb 14oz!







MORE TACKLE BOX, LESS XBOX

Fishing and family life can be hard to balance, and this has been true for me in recent years. My sons have always been more into games consoles and football, and I believe in not pushing them into things, letting them choose their own path, but always being there to support the pastime or sport they take to. With a few days off work and time to spend with my boys, I proposed a fishing trip, and to my surprise and excitement, the response was positive and plans were put into motion.

This was a trip that needed a little excitement, not just being there, but also a few fish to really show them what the buzz is all about. With this in mind, and after contemplating a few local venues, I decided on Brasenose One on the Linear Fisheries complex, knowing that the drop in temperatures and fresh winds of late this lake had been throwing up hits of fish over the past week or so.

With the venue checked off the list, next was the bait. B1 is known as a water with a big head of fish that get caught over large beds of bait, so there was only one choice. I got on the phone to QC Baits owner Phil Jackson to order the latest



particle blend that was causing quite a stir between the team of field testers, TNT, and the usual items in my armoury being Creamy Fish boilie and South West specials in fluoro colours.

The day came, and after the battle of finishing work on a busy Thursday evening, I headed home with that familiar buzz that never seems to leave you no matter your age or experience. I collected the boys, packed the last of the gear, and we departed full of hope and expectation.

Arriving at the lake to find only one swim available was both lucky and a little disheartening, as it was on the back end of the southwesterly, and I'd heard of big hits of fish coming from the far end of the lake that had the wind pushing into it consistently. Nevertheless with confidence in my bait and approach, we promptly jumped into the peg. Time was getting on for 7pm, and we decided to set about getting the Titan erected and beds in place, as the chance of moving onto fish was nonexistent; on venues such as this you often have to play the hand that you are dealt.

With the boys settled, it was time to see what we had in front of us. B1 is a bowl like lake with few features to fish, so a 4oz dumpy lead was sent towards a distinctive tree on the horizon at approximately 130 yards to find a very soft drop and pulling into heavy Canadian. I continued to skip over the weed until I came across a clear area that felt polished in places at around 90 yards. After clipping up and a few exploratory casts, I found the spot to be around 10ft surrounded by deeper water and around ten square yards in size, a spot that had almost certainly had a good amount of bait on recently.

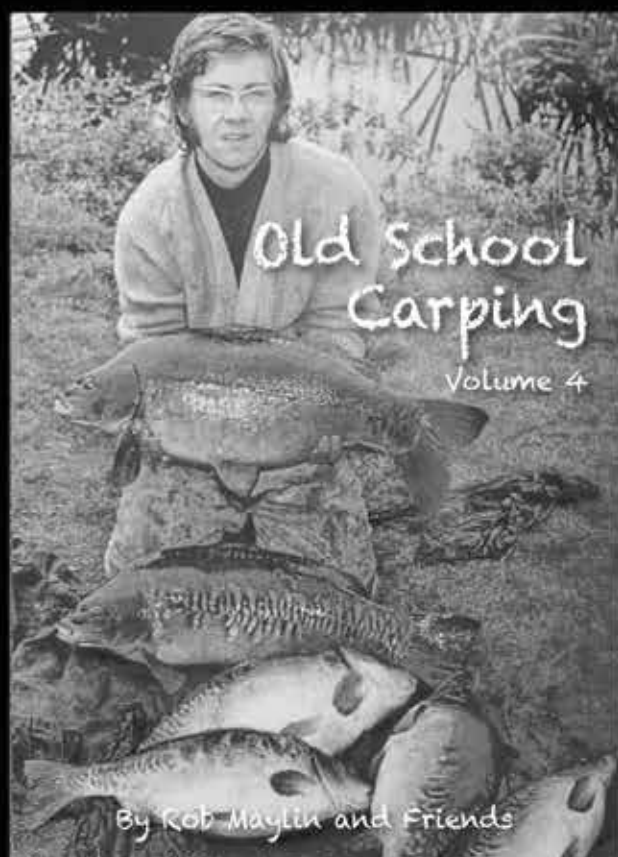
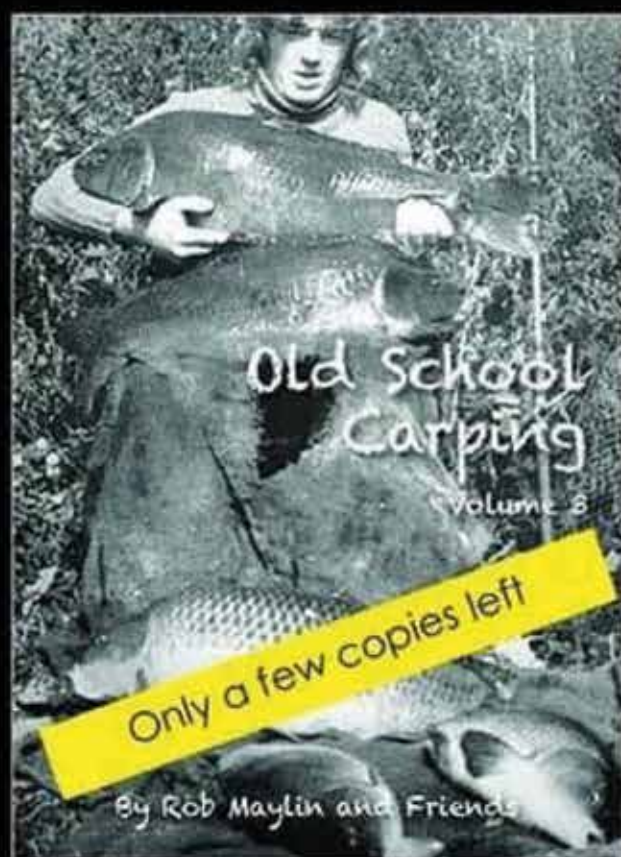
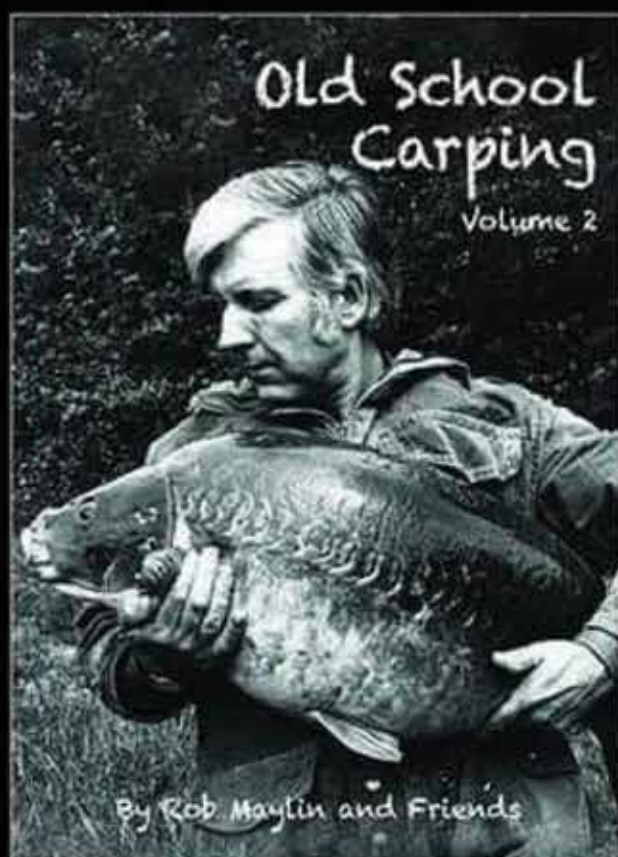
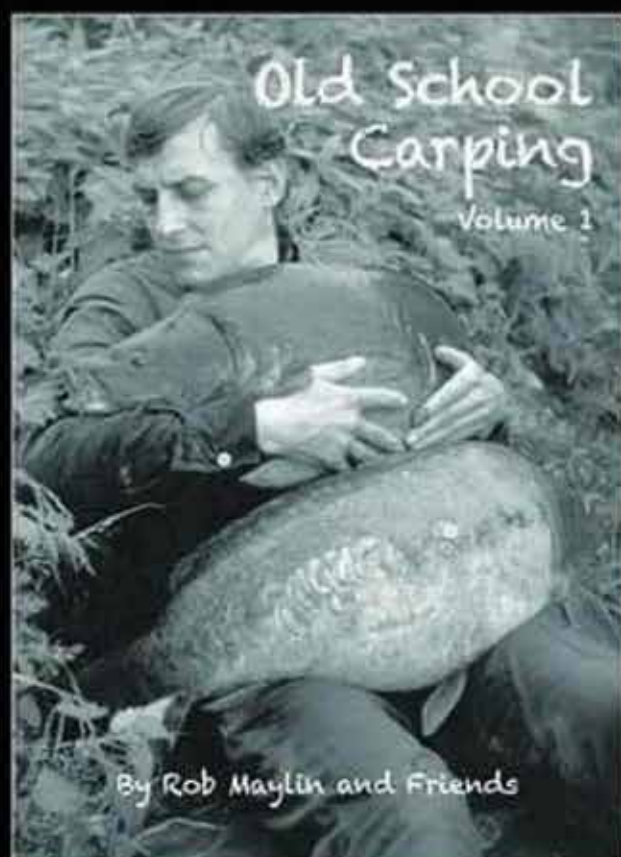
With my optimism renewed and boys bombarding me with questions and requests, we went through the hows and whys



while deploying the Spomb to the spot. After 25 Spombs had touched down, scattering the area with enough carpy goodness to keep fish rooting around, three helicopter setups were armed with D-rigs and pop-ups were balanced using the nifty pop-up weights from Fox International.

Line clips and wraps were explained, the rigs were then deployed to the baited area and bobbins set with tight lines to indicate the slightest movement, something I find imperative when fishing over particle when the carp tend to feed with

OLD SCHOOL CARPING SERIES



07768 731425

<https://www.ebay.co.uk/usr/rarecarpbooksunlimited>
www.carpbooksonline.com



much less movement than with the scattered boilie approach for example. This coupled with a short ESP tungsten loaded hooklink would give instant indication of a pickup. The light faded quickly, and with most of the snacks already demolished, the excitement and fresh air hit us and the bivvy fell silent.

At 12.30pm, approximately three hours after the last rig had settled onto the lakebed, the RX+ receiver burst into life. I ripped open the zips and made my way hastily to the rods, fully expectant of little feet close behind me, but with rod bent over, I glanced back towards the bivvy and chuckled to myself – not a peep. With the fish safely netted, weighed and settled in the recovery sling, I peered through the open door to see two blissfully unaware boys still fast asleep. Its funny how you tune in to the sound of your alarm and wake instantly,

but to others... well, they'd never know.

I managed to wake Thomas and coax him out of the comfort of the bag to see the fish and take a few pictures. He was pleased to see the common of 18lb, though I'm not sure he was wide awake enough to fully appreciate it, so hopefully there would be more to come. Thomas was quickly back to sleep, but for me, expectant of another bite to follow, it was a little harder to drop off. The next fish would hold off until first light though, and a finicky indication resulted in a pristine mirror of 20lb. A few snaps and back she went none the worse for her appearance. With the rod back on the spot and just a few Spombs to top up the area, the session was falling into place, so I thought.

The daytime went by with no action or signs of fish at our end of the water, though I could hardly complain. I was getting the best of both worlds, being out on the bank while spending time with two of the most important people in my life. We spent the day sharing laughs and playing games while periodically trying to activate the swim by topping up with bait and discussing the hows, whens and whys of carp angling... I was in my element. They say time flies when you are having fun, and that was certainly true of this trip. It was soon time to order takeaway, a plus of fishing such a popular day ticket water. Needless to say, the fresh air had taken effect again, and the pizza stood no chance against the three hungry anglers.

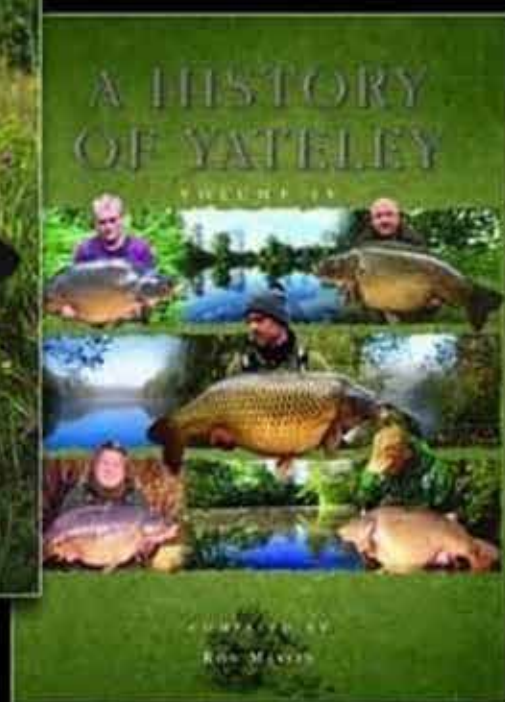
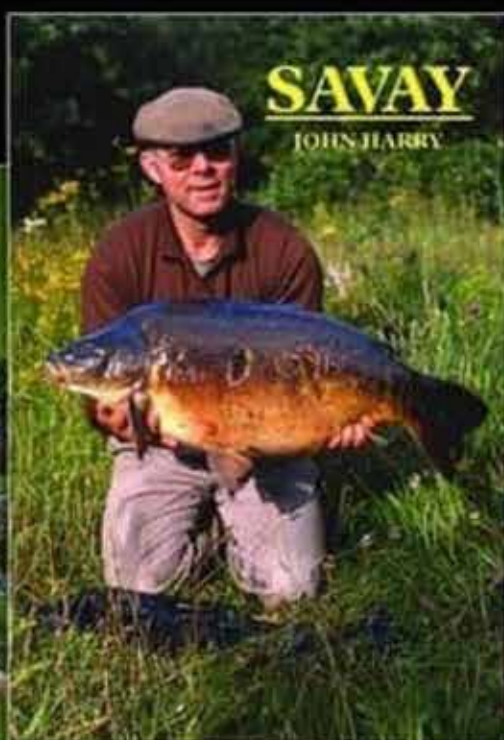
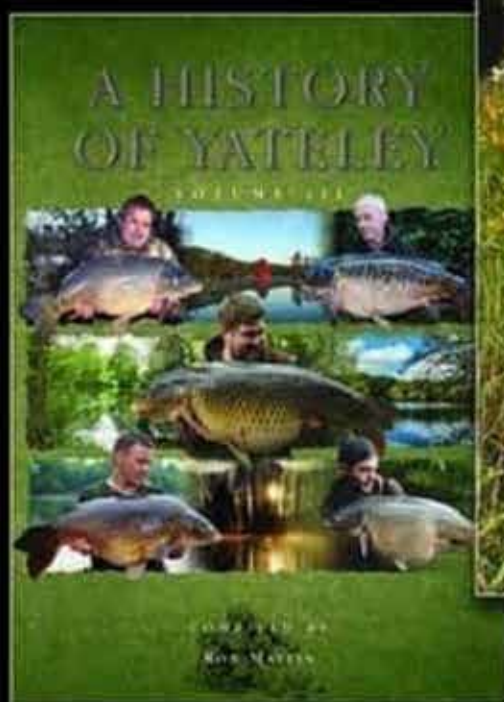
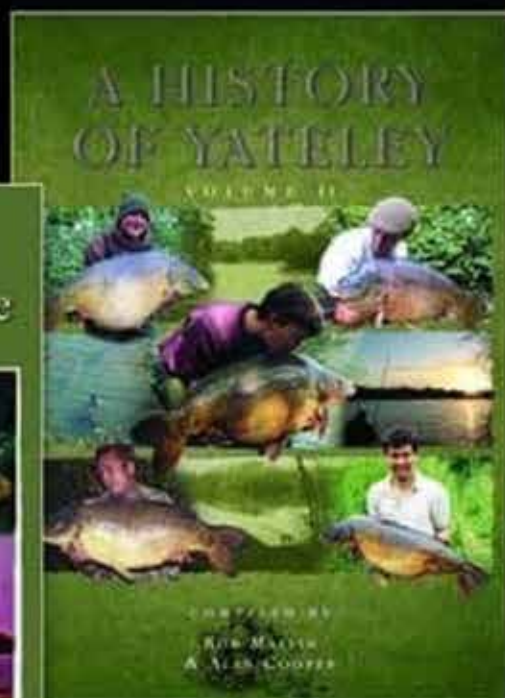
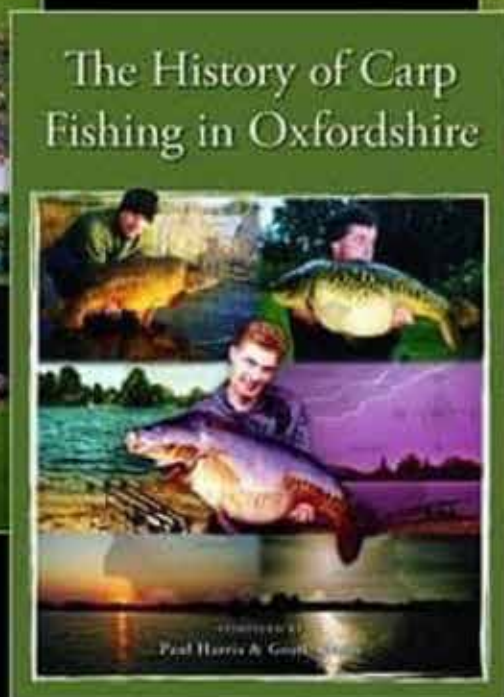
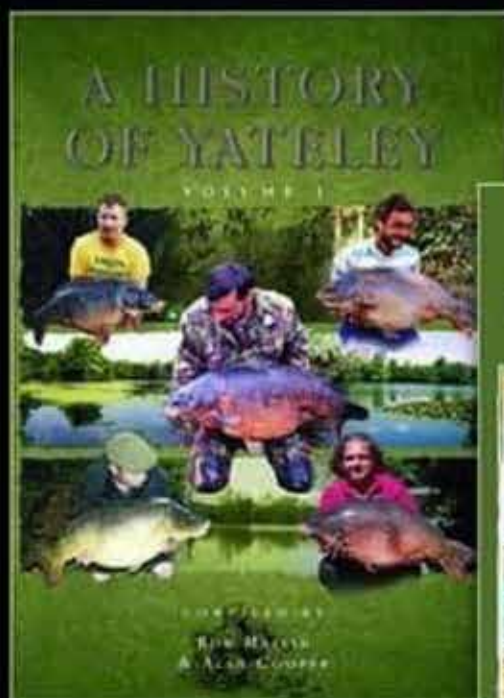
I topped up the spot once more and rebaited the rigs, ready for the evening ahead. It seemed the fish would move into our end of the lake at night, and I was sure of more lightless action. It wasn't long before a one-tone run made the boys jump, and I quickly bent into what felt like a better fish, with both boys

awake, I was keen to land it and share the experience. After a tense battle with the fish seemingly knowing every patch of weed in the area and trying to bury itself, we saw it cross the net cord, and relief was felt all round.

A quick weigh-in and into the recovery sling she went, and the 24lb 10oz mirror was sulking away while we discussed the opportunity to hold a carp for the very first time – a daunting prospect just a summer ago, but they felt ready. It was a very proud moment for all three of us, which went seamlessly with pictures to cherish for a lifetime. Perhaps as importantly was the chance to explain fish care and why we do it, releasing the



THE HISTORY SERIES



07768 731425

<https://www.ebay.co.uk/usr/rarecarpbooksunlimited>
www.carpbooksonline.com

fish back to the dark water having treated the hookhold and a lifted scale from a previous capture, which seemed to be already healing nicely. I was proud to see my boys taking it in and soaking the experience up like sponges. The games console couldn't be any further from their minds. It was a good few hours of excited conversation before we all fell asleep fully satisfied by the experience we had just shared.

Ten minutes before sunrise saw me winding down to connect with another fish after a sudden drop-back. A great feature of the RX+ alarms from Fox is that a drop-back sends out a lower tone to that of the forward motion of the roller, a great little



feature. A few minutes' fight and a lovely scaly carp of just over 15lb graced the net. With the boys sound asleep after an adrenaline fueled night, I decided to take the pictures myself without waking them and slipped the fish back with minimal distress. The rod was rewrapped, baited and repositioned on the spot, which I once again topped up with a few Spombs of bait and awaited the calls for breakfast, which took until 9.30am to my surprise... I'm liking the effect this fishing has on them.

Well, with the bites all coming in the hours of darkness or first light, I wasn't expecting any more action, but after the boys had woken, eaten and discussed heading home to our much loved Labrador, I was surprised by two bleeps from the right hand rod. On inspection, a pair of swans had just crossed the front of the swim, and I refrained from lifting the rod, but the line pulled tight and slammed up against the blank and was again into a fairly good sized fish – result – a daylight capture for the boys to delight in. This time a mirror of 21lb 6oz showed up for the camera, again behaving for the boys and posing for pictures, almost sensing the nervousness in them, and I could not be happier with the result. We all shared in the magical moment of seeing the beautiful creature swim off happily into the depths to hopefully one day bring as much joy to another angler.

A slow pack up was soon underway as we watched fish rolling over the spot for the first time during our trip, but I didn't mind one bit... My job was done and my heart content knowing that the buzz for fishing had been carefully bestowed upon two young impressionable minds. We packed the van and headed home full of pride... The future can be bright, if you only inspire it.



TACKLE FEST

9AM - 3PM FREE PARKING FREE ENTRY

**MAY
23RD
GRANTHAM**

THE ORIGINAL JONNY BOY

FREE WHIP
KITS FOR
40 KIDS



FREE GOODY
BAGS FOR
FIRST 200



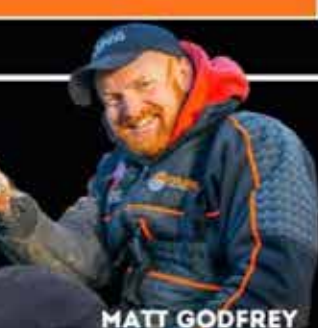
TOM MAKER



JULIAN CUNDIFF



FRANK 'THE TANK'



MATT GODFREY

COME AND SEE:

KORDA FOX NASH

CC MOORE X okuma Wychwood

GURU Rapala RGBaits

STICKY COMMANDO MAP

fjuka ELEVATE BITS DYNAMITE EVOLVE

OMIC AGITATOR mainline



THE GINGER FISHERMAN

10% OFF



SCAN ME



FARLOWS SESSION

BI was working the previous week in Guildford, fishing on the Godalming club ticket and banking my first river carp, so I was bursting with confidence leading up to Farlows on Friday. I arrived early afternoon to quite an empty lake, and a quiet Farlows is very rare. I went about my business, doing a couple of laps of the lake before I made base camp in peg 49, as it was black with carp on a SW wind. After leading around trying to find some clear spots, I came across a short range spot that I put two rods on, both on a DNA Baits S7 Half Tone pop-up and laid on a few Spombs of Mini Mix, as I was only fishing for one bite. It's very weedy in front of 49, and on the third rod, I attacked the weed with a solid bag full of DNA Baits Crayfish Mini Mix with a white Half Tone S7 pop-up. The following morning then led into these two dark creatures. I was absolutely over the moon to land these Farlows carp, as it's only my second trip on the lake, with the first session being a massive success landing seven carp to 33lbs.



SECRETS OF THE THAMES

Price
£29.95

Secrets of The Thames

By Rob Maylin and friends



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

<https://www.ebay.co.uk/usr/rarecarpbooksunlimited>
www.carpbooksonline.com



DIARY OF AN URBAN MYTH

Rob Maylin – Well, it's the first of October, and I've met up with one of the busiest men in the fishing game, the urban legend himself and head honcho at Urban Baits, Terry Dempsey. Believe it or not, I've been trying to get together with Terry since April of this year. We met up last time at the Five Lakes Show we were talking about, getting the Strawberry Nutcracker subscription deal going in Big Carp and said we would meet the following week down at the coffee shop, have a coffee and a chat have a catch up on old times because we always have a bloody good laugh when we are together talking about stealing milk bottles when we use to fish in the old days – stealing milk off people's doorsteps, so we had some milk down the lake... Anyway, I've been waiting since April. The guy's so busy, we have put the meeting back and back and back – May, June, July, August – we are right through to summer and not able to get a minute together. He's so busy been on Dragon's Den, and we will tell you about that in a minute. Well, finally here we are in October down at the coffee shop catching up with how things are going.

He's had some fantastic fish lately. You have probably seen him on the front of Free Line magazine with a lovely scaly fish, and he's also on the front of the following month's issue, just a little picture of him and Daniel. I think the fish was called Max Factor from Oxford way, again an awesome looking carp that Terry is going to tell us all about. While we are here, another thing I wanted to do with Terry was to tap his brain on his old school carp fishing baits. We all know these carp fishing baits of Terry's have been very successful over the years. A lot of these have stood the test of time and go back quite a way in the development of his recipes. I mean, we have gone past the days of a bucket of peanuts to last us all summer. I'm going to speak to Terry for a different magazine about his thoughts on the old school and the baits from the good old days, so I will pass you over to Terry now. This piece is called "While The Cat's Away". Terry's wife was away in Russia visiting family, so he took the opportunity to get out and visit a few lakes with devastating effect.

Terry Dempsey – Good to see you, Rob. It doesn't seem like six months, but it is now, isn't it? As you know, I've had a busy year; the bait scene is really busy in the spring, so my fishing time is very limited. I did join the Woolpack this year. I've been meaning to join the Woolpack for a few years. Jim did a bit over there, and I did fish it originally, going all the way back to the early 90s. I fished up on Little Paxton and Royston in the 80s and caught some beautiful Leneys out of there. In those days, we were after those old scaly mirrors all that time back. I heard about the Woolpack probably was around late 80s, and I first fished up there in probably 91 when a couple of us went up there and fished it. We didn't do much up there;

we went up there in the winter, but we could tell it was a nice place, and I was looking forward to going back up there. This year I heard that some of the fish are still in there, and the ones I fished for in 91 are still in there. They are probably as old as me, you know, Rob, easily... so they are great old fish.

I had seen the odd picture of fish that Jim had caught and a few other people, so I was excited about getting up there. I first went up there for my first trip on a two-nighter in May. It had been fishing really quiet, as we had a bit of a cold spring, but I went up there anyway. I didn't really know what to expect, being a new water with quite a low stock. I don't think there are a lot of carp in there, only 20 or 30 carp. I was fishing lakes 5 and 6, which are joined together. I was pretty lucky, as on my first walk around I saw a fish poke its head out just by a bush against an island about 70 yards from the bank. I stood there watching and then went and got my gear and came back.

I flicked a rod out there up against the bush. It dropped nicely and it was a perfect cast; it landed about 2ft short of the bush. I held onto the lead, and it went down and I got a little clonk on the bottom. I could feel there wasn't any weed or any silt; it was lovely. I sunk my line, put the rod on the buzzer and started messing around with my other rod. This was my new ticket; I hadn't cast out in there since 91, and literally the rod just ripped off straight away within about two minutes of me casting out. Sometimes things all work out right, and I had a hard fighting fish on the end.

I had a real war with it, got it in the net, phoned Jim up, and he could not believe it. He'd only just seen me walking round with my gear. He knew it was a new lake and a tricky little lake, but anyway I had a result... I had a 29lb 12oz mirror,

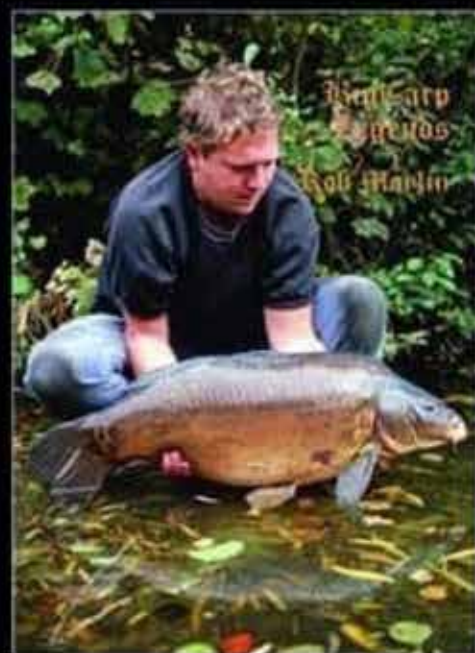
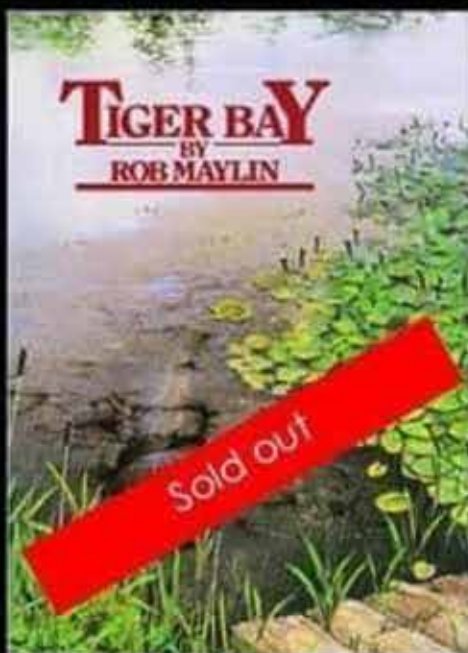
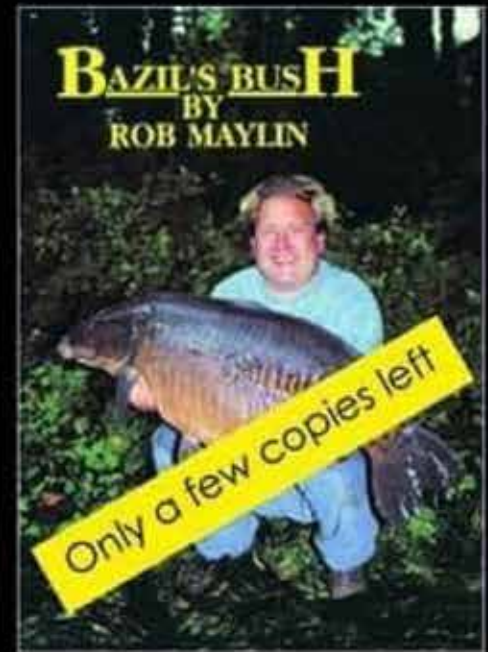
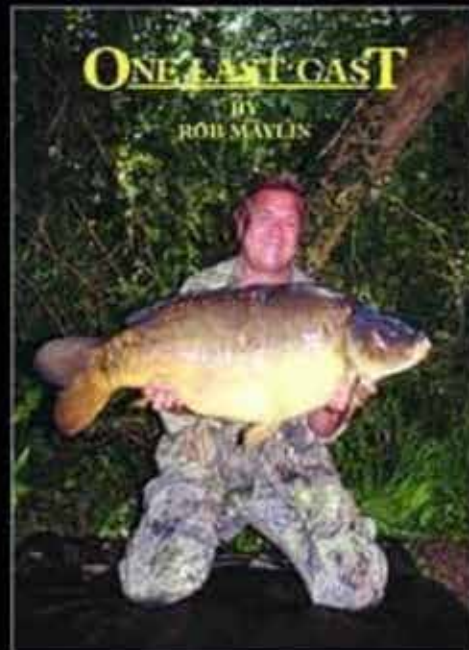
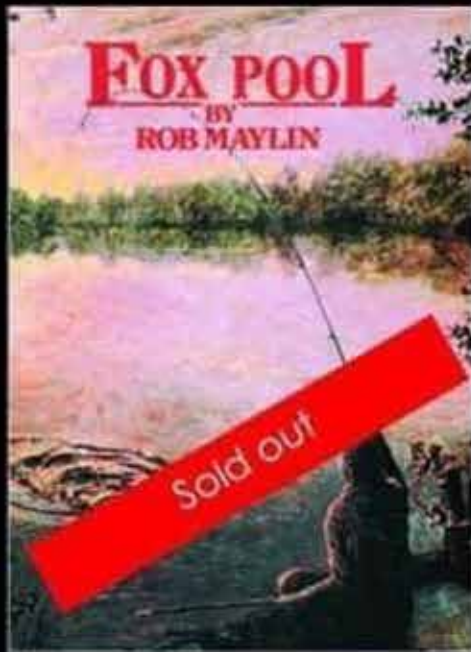


an absolute beauty. I stuck him back in the water and put my rod back out on the bush where this fish had rolled, and over the next two nights, I landed three. I had a fish called Clover at 37lb, a beautiful big 50-year-old common. I had another mirror just under 29 too, so I had a 29, a 28 and a 37 first trip. Nothing else had been out it; it had been dead. Everyone else was blanking down there, so I walked away laughing my head off all the way back to London. It's a fair old drive – 100 miles, and I was just laughing my head off thinking, you lucky git!

Anyway, it was quite a while before my wife let me back down there, and it wasn't until July that the handcuffs came off and I was back off on the road to the Woolpack. Tanya had taken Daniel away for two and a half weeks, and she knows exactly what I'm like. As soon as she was dropped at the airport, I

THE ROB MAYLIN SERIES

50 years on the bank with Rob and Friends



07768 731425

<https://www.ebay.co.uk/usr/rarecarpbooksunlimited>
www.carpbooksonline.com



didn't go home again until the day she came back. She's been known to go away for five weeks to her mum's with the kids in the summer holidays, and I don't think I spent a night at home or at work for any of those five weeks.

Anyway, I went straight up to the Woolpack. I'd only done two nights on there, and I wanted to get some use of my ticket. I had a good walk around, and it was totally different to when I fished it in May. Being July, there was weed all over the surface. It was so weedy; it looked absolutely beautiful. I found some fish in a weed bed up at one end. The next thing I was having a lead around from the other side, trying to cast across. I found a little drop, and there is a load of weed, a little channel in the weed and a little silty pocket. I found this spot, and I thought, lovely, and put a bit of bait on it. I found another spot to the

left and put a bit of bait on that too. I did the night, but didn't get anything.

I woke up in the morning, and the lake looked dead. As it started warming up sort of mid-morning, I saw some fish heading down to the corner to my right, and they were swimming right into a set of pads. I could see them milling around, going back up into the thick weed bed, so I thought, I'm going to have a go down there to see what it's like. There is a little spot down there where you can walk right into the bank, so I walked down there, and I had about a kilo and a half of crumbed boilie, which I chucked all along where there was a load of scum in the edge that had blown in all around these pads and around this floating weed and stuff. I chucked all this chopped boilie round the edge of this scum, walked back



to my swim and thought I would go and check that.

Half an hour later, I walked down there, and I saw a big mirror swimming off right near from where the boilie was chucked in. I stood there for about two minutes, and I saw a little patch of fizz come up right on top of the bait, so I knew they had been in there investigating. I thought that's a spot for tonight, so that's what I did. Just before dark, I had to wade out up to my waist in the lake to cast this rod. Now being a left-hander, it was perfect because I can fish the right corners a lot better than the right-handers can. The right-handers can fish the left corners better than I can, but if you get a right corner, you aren't getting anyone fishing it better than me because I can fish it as a left hander. I do fish with my right hand as well, so I do cast with my right hand as well, but mostly I'm a left-hand caster. I love fishing those spots because I'm getting where most people can't get, as most people are right handed. I tucked the rod right down in this scum – practically the perfect cast. I chucked a load more bait in there, about kilo of chopped boilies, and forgot all about it.

The next morning, I was sitting there, and all of a sudden, the tip just went right round on the corner rod, and I had an epic battle and landed the big linear. What a fish – the most amazing looking carp – another fish that's 50 years old, a proper Leney mirror that was stocked, an absolutely mental fish. Anyway, I was really buzzing... I had done two nights by then, and because I had a bit of time on my hands, I phoned up the owner. You're only allowed to do one week a year, as its three nights and you have got to get off, and my Savay rota started on the following Sunday. So this was about Tuesday or Wednesday, so I thought I'd phone him and see if I could

stay down a few extra days 'cos it would probably be my only trip of the year and I might get one more trip. He let me, and I ended up staying another three or four nights, but the fish that I caught was the fish I was talking about all through the spring.

There was a fish called the Woodcarving Common, which goes low 40s and its 50 years old, but it's the most mint cap you have ever seen; it's such a character of a common. Then there is another big plated in there which is called the Pit 4 Fully, which does 40, and it's just mauve and pink and black and reds. This thing is the most amazing colours, and again it's a fully 50-year-old Leney – such a fish. The way the session went was unbelievable because to start with, I wanted the big linear, that was my target, and I caught him. Then my target was the Woodcarving Common.



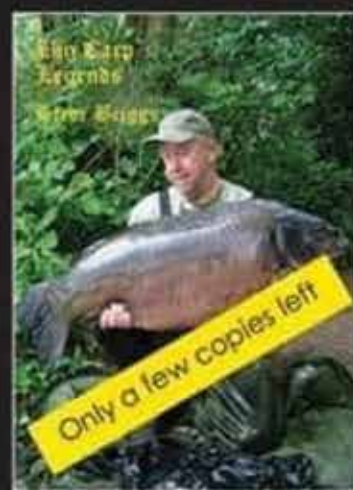
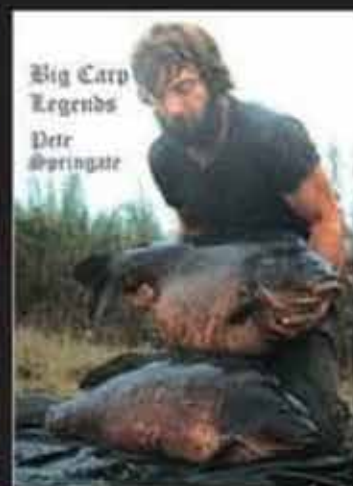
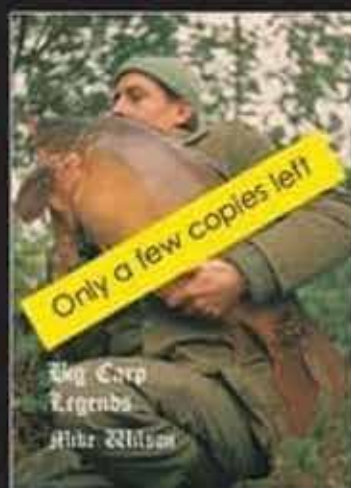
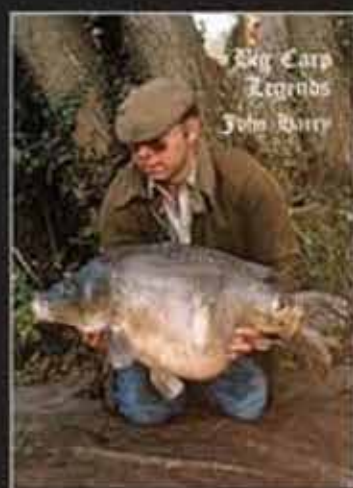
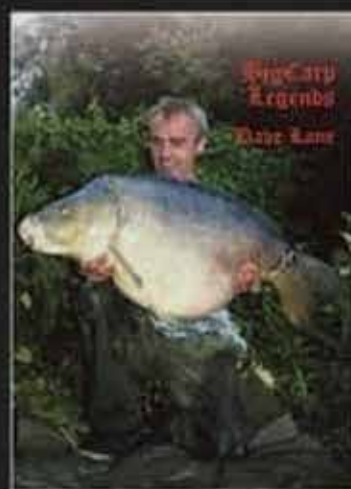
Anyway, I got a take at one o'clock in the morning. I was out in the lake up to my chest, playing this fish as it was weeding me up down to the right. I thought it was only a small fish, and I heaved it into the net. I thought it might have been a tench, but when I got it in the net, I looked and I could see it was a common, so I thought, lovely. There was a load of weed in the net, so I hoisted it onto the bank, and when I got my torch on it, I recognised it straight away as the Woodcarving Common, the biggest carp in the lake. I was buzzing now, wading in the dark into the lake. It went 41 and a half, and it was about 3ft long this thing. I put that back, and I was buzzing for the rest of the day walking about. All I could think about was getting the Big Fully, as I knew things were happening for me now I was in the groove.

Anyway, at half one in the morning from rod out in the middle of the lake, fishing over a big bucket of chopped boilie and hemp. I got an absolutely melting take, just a one-noter. I had another big fight, and in the moonlight I could see this fish coming around with a big tail. I netted it, and you know, when your luck's in... I just knew even before I looked in that net that it was going to be that fish – you know, don't ya? I looked in the net, and that was it – the Big Fully, so I had the three big targets and Clover and a couple of other fish to boot in a handful of nights' fishing. What to do? Do you go back after that, or do you say, let's never go back again and move on? I have the best memories of the eight nights I did there – such a beautiful lake, a stunning, natural place, and the fish are absolutely amazing to be honest.

I packed up there on the Sunday morning early and went straight down for the draw at Savay, which was being a grueller

BIG CARP LEGENDS SERIES

The anglers that shaped today's carp scene



07768 731425

<https://www.ebay.co.uk/usr/rarecarpbooksunlimited>
www.carpbooksonline.com



as usual. It took me two days to find fish, and it wasn't till the Tuesday morning that I actually found fish that I could fish for anyway. I baited a spot at about 90 yards on a little bar with a little bit of gravel there. I had seen fish there in the morning in the same area, so I must have put 20 Spombs out of chopped boilie and hemp, and fished a little wafter in amongst them.

In the morning, I woke up, and the fish were back there again and showing. About half seven in the morning, I got a ripping take and played in another good fish. I got it in the net, and when I looked, it was one of the known big Savay commons. This fish normally goes 40, and they call it the Lump of Lead Common. It went 38lb at this time, but again, what a stunning old fish – another 40 or 50-year-old original carp, so I was buzzing, you know. It was unbelievable considering the time I get, as the Savay fish are low stock in 70 acres, and they are few and far between. So, in one session so I had four fish over 38, and without even going home to have a wash, straight from there I went to Christchurch and did a little session and had a 20lb double linear – a belter.

Daniel came back with his mum from his grandmother's, and I grabbed him straight away and took him back down to Christchurch with me. He had a float rod, and we started float fishing, getting him into his float fishing, and we were catching perch and roach. He was absolutely loving it, but we couldn't really get on the carp, as they were sort of held up at either end in all the weed. Anyway, during the week one of the guys moved, and we got in one of the good swims where the fish were held up, and about two or three in the morning, I got a belting take. This thing was pulling like a horse, and it weeded me up in the thick weed. Daniel and I were standing



there, I was shaking, the rod was bending over double, and this thing wasn't moving. So I put the rod on the rest, put the kettle on, and we were looking at each other like, what can we do? Daniel's like, "Dad, come on, pull! Pull it harder and get it out!" I said, "No, I don't want to lose it!" I said we could go and look for a boat, so we went looking for a boat at half three in the morning with a torch, with him in his little wellies, and I was running around barefoot, as I'd just got out of the bivvy to play a fish.

Anyway, we found a boat, but it had a lock on it, and we couldn't unlock it. I started waking up some other anglers to see if anyone knew who had a key to this boat. It turned out that I woke up the right person, and he phoned someone who lived in the house just over the back, an absolutely brilliant guy who came down in the middle of the night with a key and

unlocked the boat for me. The next thing, I was paddling out in the boat with Daniel shouting, "Be careful, Dad! Don't fall in!"

I got out there with a torch. I was using a washed-out pink pop-up, one of our Tuna and Garlics, and all I could see was this pink pop-up sitting there and a big pair of white lips around it, just opening and closing in the torchlight. It couldn't see me, as its head was covered in weed, so I positioned the boat right in front so the lips were facing me, and I lowered the net right along the front of the boat. I got my net there, and the lips were just opening up, and this pop-up was just glowing in the light of my torch. Its eyes were all covered over, so I know he couldn't see me. It was so cheeky and brilliant the way I did it; I started taking some weed off his back, and I just gave him a little tug with my hook link, and he swam straight into the net. I shouted, "Got him, Dan!"

This is no word of a lie and the strangest part of the story... Daniel's done a fair few nights with me on different lakes, and he gets to know the names of the fish. When we used to fish Wingham, he used to know all the names of the fish 'cos he had seen me catch known fish, and he had heard me speak about them. He had been listening to the guys down at Linch Hill, and just before we went to bed that night, he said, "You're gonna catch Max Factor tonight, Dad!" He said, "My friend Max is German, and the German carp are very pretty, and Max Factor is a pretty carp, so it must be German." It was a typical thing to come out of a nine-year-old's mouth. Now, I ain't got a clue about Max Factor; I don't know any of the fish in Linch. We got this fish in the net, and it was a big fully scaled. We weighed it up at around 35lbs and stuck it in the retainer until the morning



In the morning, as it got to first light, we shouted out to a few of the locals, and they came round with their cameras. It was unbelievable – as we opened the retainer all the locals shouted out, “That’s Max Factor!” It’s typical from a kid, the intuitive stuff... So that was a good session, and in just a short bit of fishing, I landed six over 35lbs, a couple of 28s and 20 double linear, but I’m back to reality now.

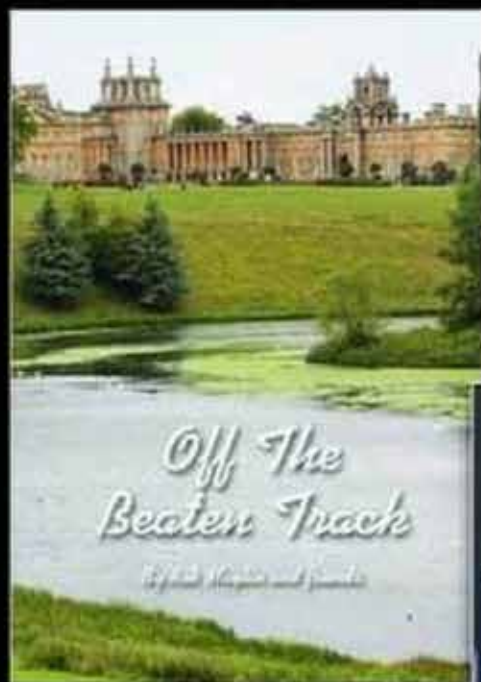
Rob Maylin – You say reality you had your first TV appearance

Terry Dempsey – Yeah I was on BBC 2. I forgot all about that. Blimey, that was a turn up for the books wasn’t it? I still haven’t seen it... I won’t watch it. I went to bed about quarter to eight and turned the phone off for two days.

Rob Maylin – Excellent! Considering you don’t get much time for fishing, you certainly do make the best of the time when you get it. Thank you for sharing all those memories with us, Tel... that’s fantastic.

OFF THE BEATEN TRACK SERIES

For lovers of the unknown, unnamed and uncaught



07768 731425

<https://www.ebay.co.uk/usr/rarecarpbooksunlimited>
www.carpbooksonline.com



THE BIG PIT

Over the course of two nights, I landed five fish from an area I have been baiting with The Source, Monster Tiger Nuts and sweetcorn. The area I was fishing was a heavily weeded bay, and the fish were clearly held up there. I scattered 3kg of Source in a clear channel between two large weed beds and presented hinge stiff rigs topped with white Source pop-ups as hook baits.

Unfortunately, I was burdened with an airport pick-up for my sister on the Friday night, so I got down to the lake at dawn on Saturday. They were definitely in the area, and three rigs were soon flicked to their respective spots followed by a top-up of boilies. At 120 acres and with a very low stock, it

THOMAS ROSSITER

was never going to be easy fishing. From what I can tell, the reservoir has been fishing terribly this year with only eight fish known to have been out since November last year. Despite this, I remained confident as conditions looked spot-on and importantly, I was on fish. The weather was prime; a noticeable drop in pressure and a warm southwesterly blowing right into the bay. I didn't think the fish would be leaving, and in the early afternoon, I received an absolutely savage take on my right hand rod. Fishing a tight clutch and a drop-off lead, the fish came straight to the surface, but soon found sanctuary in a thick weed bed. I felt the odd kick as I bullied a huge ball of weed into my net, and it wasn't long before I was holding a pristine mid double common for the camera... not one of the



elusive mirrors, but I was buzzing nonetheless. The plan was coming together!

With the rods all sorted for the night, I cracked open a celebratory can of Speckled Hen as the carp put on an evening display, boshing all over the bait, a really rare site on the reservoir. Needless to say I went to bed an extremely confident angler that night! At 04:15, the left hand rod was away with another screaming take, which I managed to get on film! The powerful fish took me into a large submerged weeded, and I was just pulling through when I caught a glimpse of a linear pattern on its flank. The fish began plodding around in the shallow margins with a huge clump of weed over its head when disaster struck and the hook pulled. I was absolutely distraught... takes on the reservoir were few and far between, and I did not want to be losing them. A fresh rig was tied and steamed before being flicked back out to the clear spot between the weed, and another 50 or so baits followed.

After guzzling down countless cups of tea and reliving the hook pull incident in my head, I was left staring at my left hand rod as the bobbin raised several inches. I looked out to the spot where I saw a huge fizz of bubbles break the surface followed by the unrecognisable tone of my buzzer; the rod had only been back out an hour, and it was away again. The fish surfaced almost instantly, and after an initial surge to bury itself in weed, I bullied it towards me where it plodded its way into my net. A quick look through the weed, and I recognised it to be one of the original mirrors.

With the fish recovering safely in the retainer for a few minutes, I was redoing the rod when my middle rod melted off, and I was into another angry carp. I walked up the bank



felt the odd kick as I bought a huge bed of weed towards me. It was soon engulfed in my net, the result being a pretty little common at a little under 20lbs. The mirror went 26lbs, and it was a proper old brute, scratches and scars all over its leathery body – it certainly was a character.

The day passed by with no other action but there were fish still around, enjoying the warmth of the sun as they nestled into the weed. I was meant to be off that afternoon, but just knew I had to wangle another night, even if it did mean an evening without food and an early morning pack down for work. I made sure all the rods were perfect for bite time, so I spent the late afternoon ensuring to get good drops and perfect line lay before settling in for the night. This proved a

LIMITED EDITION • SIGNED AND NUMBERED

Legendary Carp Paintings



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



<https://www.ebay.co.uk/usr/rarecarpbooksunlimited>



little tricky, as there was a noticeable crosswind to deal with, but with perseverance, I soon had three baits where I wanted them with my line lying carefully over the problematic weed. I anticipated dawn bites again, so was pleasantly surprised when the middle rod screamed off at 8pm.

My mate Harry had joined me for the last night, and I was in his swim, eating one of his burgers, when we heard the take. Needless to say my burger ended up in a bush somewhere as I sprinted through the bankside shrubbery to my rod. With Harry's help, it made things so much easier, as he waded out into the bay to net the fish, and what a fish it was – one I had set my eyes on last year – a lovely fully with a huge, unmarked

tail. She was down in weight following her recent spawning, but her condition was sublime. I was absolutely buzzing; doing the extra night had certainly paid off.

At 3:30am, Harry received a steady take on his right hand rod, which ended up being a right old battle. As dawn broke, we were up to our chests in water, working together to break through the thick weed surrounding the fish. After ten minutes of standstill, we had our breakthrough as the fish surfaced, allowing me to scoop it up in the net. With pictures done and a quick cuppa, I still had two hours until my alarm was due to sound, so with a full day of work ahead of me, I opted for a few more hours' shuteye.

I was just falling back into the land of nod when I had a



screamer on my right hand rod. I was straight on it as the fish surfaced at range before surging into a nearby weed bed. I again, walked onto the highest ground possible where I kept steady pressure on and drew the fish the eighty or so yards towards me. Thankfully, Harry was again at hand with the net, and before long, the most perfect fully was in my net, a target fish that I had seen some photos of a few years ago. We weighed and photographed the fish as the sun rose followed by one last brew before I packed down for work. Five carp in a weekend from the Big Pit was more than I could ever have dreamed... I can't wait to get back down there in the week and hopefully land one of the really big girls.



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.

SUPPORTED BY:



Big Carp Magazine!

a history of excellence



AVAILABLE AS A DIGITAL DOWNLOAD

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



Available on the
App Store



Available on
Android

 **pocketmags.com**

