

Carpworld

Quarterly

No. 1

Price £2.20

Summer 88





Each of the illustrated models will connect to a 2T sounder box via special extension leads. A full range of optonic accessories is available at Efgeeco stockists.

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COUGAR

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This range of rods has been a year in the making. Successfully tested in prototype form during the summer of '87, previewed under another name in the winter, they are at last appearing in the spring of 1988. We believe the new *COUGAR* rods to be quite exceptional, both in terms of performance and sheer good looks. Once you have seen and handled them at the forthcoming Close Season conference, we're certain you will think so too.

The *COUGAR* is a low diameter rod built of woven carbon fibre. Careful use of this every expensive material will yield a blank with tremendous strength, lightness and immaculate appearance. We personally dislike the excessive weight and rather tip-heavy feel of some low diameter rods and were at pains to avoid this when working with a British blank manufacturer on the project.

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Cougars are unique and new. We invite you to inspect and handle them on our stand at the Carp Society Conference at Dunstable or before at other shows, if you get around the country in the spring. We will also have a few pairs of *COUGAR Special Edition* rods with us on such days. Nothing over the top of 'posey', merely outstanding examples of the ultimate modern carp rod. Look forward to see you!

The *COUGAR* Carp Range

12 footers: 1³/₄lb., 2lb., 2¹/₄lb., 2¹/₂lb., and 3lb. test curves
13 footers: 1³/₄lb., 2lb., 2¹/₄lb., 2¹/₂lb., and 3lb. test curves

COUGAR Specification

Smooth ground, woven carbon blank with a subtle scale-like patterning that will fascinate and please the eye. Distinctive and discreet without stripes, spots or cosmetic scars. Colour carbon grey. Light – less than 5³/₄ oz. for 12' x 2lb. TC blank. Spigot ferrules. Abbreviated duplon handle. Fuji fittings and special oxide rings throughout. Black or graphite nylon whippings in our immaculate, enduring epoxy finish. Silicon carbide, cork handle and thread colour options naturally.

COUGAR Prices

12ft.	1 ³ / ₄ lb.	£118.00	13ft.	1 ³ / ₄ lb.	£124.00
12ft.	2lb.	£120.00	13ft.	2lb.	£126.00
12ft.	2 ¹ / ₄ lb.	£122.00	13ft.	2 ¹ / ₂ lb.	£128.00
12ft.	2 ¹ / ₂ lb.	£125.00	13ft.	3lb.	£130.00
12ft.	3lb.	£128.00			

We make no apology for these prices. You will understand why when you have seen one of the rods.

*We are currently preparing an information leaflet about the new *COUGAR* range. It will be available late March – I hope! In the meantime, if you would like to know more, ring me, Paul Boote, at the address below.*



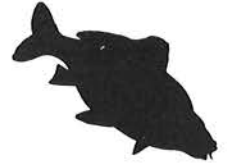
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Carpworld



Editor's Bit

SUBSCRIPTIONS

The subscriptions quoted on the insert are for the next four issues of Carpworld.

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ANGLING PUBLICATIONS wishes to make it clear that opinions expressed in articles in CARP WORLD are those of the contributors and should not be held to represent the policies or opinions of ANGLING PUBLICATIONS or the CARP WORLD production team.

ALMOST seven years ago I became the editor of the Carp Society's then new magazine, Carp Fisher. I've been involved with that extraordinary publication on and off ever since, at the moment as Managing Editor and Publisher (with my colleagues at Angling Publications). In addition to Carp Fisher there is another carp fishing magazine published periodically, Carp Catcher, the official magazine of the Carp Anglers Association. In addition the carp angler has reading matter provided by articles in the monthlies and weeklies.

So why Carpworld?

Good question, and one that requires a complicated answer. First, about Carp Fisher and Carp Catcher. They provide solid carp literature, but because they are the official publications of the two rival carp groups it isn't possible for them to give an unbiased, uncensored view of what is going on in the carp world. As overall editor of Carp Fisher I do as I'm told in terms of what can and what can't be published. As Editor of Carp Catcher Peter Mohan implements his own special censorship/editing policy to what appears in print in his publications.

The result is that a great deal that should be said in the carp world is left unsaid, or distorted slightly, or interpreted as biased because it appears in an "in-house" publication. The monthlies do their best but none of the editors are carp men, and carp fishing coverage can run to just one article per month at times: to carp men that isn't good value for an outlay of anything from £1.20 to £1.50.

People like to read about carp fishing, and this is an attempt to make carp fishing writings available; to take the market place to the readership, and potential readership, rather than creating our own market place which people have to seek out. We'll make Carpworld as available as possible, and we've obtained acceptance from all the leading newsagency outlets. If you can't get the magazine through your local newsagent shout about it. There are a lot of magazines on the market and I know from personal experience that it can be difficult to get hold of a specific publication without ordering it. We are making the magazine available on subscription, and, to a limited extent, through the tackle trade, but the main sales arena will be the newsagents and bookstands.

A quick glance through the magazine will tell you that we are looking for the support of the trade, and will give the trade support and coverage in return. Anyone who is involved in magazine publication will tell you that advertisers are the life blood of a journal like this. Production and printing costs are massive, and a publication with a newsagent distribution system is working up to three or four months in arrears in terms of sales income. The size and quality of the magazine is entirely dependent on the size of the advertising subsidy, so don't moan about there being "too much advertising" in here. If there wasn't, the magazine wouldn't exist. The more advertising we get, at a realistic price, the better the quality of the magazine and the greater the editorial (words and pictures) content.

We are trying to make Carpworld realistic and we won't be avoiding those dark areas of the carp world that bring it into disrepute. "The Profumo File" is a syndicated pseudonym. We will accept contributions to it, but not of an anonymous nature (although all sources will be protected). We have not come into business to be sued for libel, so anything you see in print in here will have been checked out as far as possible for accuracy. In addition we are not in the least bit interested in "personality clashes." It may be that some of the wider issues touched on will have to highlight the activities of individuals, but it will be the principle that is under discussion. If, at times, we appear to have an unhealthy preoccupation with fish stealing, leaving the baits out while at the pub, unethical practices, whatever, then we think that what we say will simply be a reflection of public opinion on the issue.

What is important is that Carpworld is being put together by carp men, for carp men. We need your support, both in terms of readership and contributions, so buy it, read it, write for it, take pictures for it, tell your friends about it. If you don't like the magazine tell us why; if you do like it tell the carp world.

Tim Paisley

WE'RE in the market for good carp fishing material – and we'll pay for it. Payment for features will vary according to the quality of the material both in terms of literacy and/or appeal. Don't worry if your spelling or punctuation isn't in accordance with the basic rules of the English language. It is our job to produce a publishable feature from the raw material supplied; if you've got something worth saying get it down and send it off.

We will pay well for in-depth technical articles. Good features of this type can make fascinating reading, and take a great deal of preparing. If you want to write, be helpful, or entertaining, or just write whatever you are writing WELL. We can't define a good article, but the test at your end is "would this interest me if someone else had written it?" If in doubt submit it, and if it falls short of the necessary standard we will try to tell you why.

Drawings, photographs, photographic features, snippets for the Profumo File . . . if you are submitting anything for Carpworld, make sure it is clearly marked as being offered for publication. Let's hear from you.

We don't think we need mention the correspondence file . . .

COVER PICTURE

The cover shot is of the great Rod Hutchinson at Lake Cassien in France. Rod will be writing for Carpworld in future editions. He was going to write for this one but we couldn't find him . . . he was fishing!



Carpworld



Advertising

Kevin Nash
Imperial Park
Rawreth Lane
Rayleigh, Essex



Kevin Nash
0268 - 770238

A BIG thank you to a number of people for helping get the advertising off the ground, not least the advertisers themselves. Steve Akeroyd from Leeds took on the advertising in the first instance. He's used to selling, but he found that because he has a full time job outside angling, and was on unfamiliar ground, he just hadn't the time needed to devote to reaching the impossible budget we set for him. We've got him to thank for his efforts in doing some of the advertising spadework, and for help in other areas of the production of the magazine.

I don't know what it is about Kevin Nash . . . I can only think that he knows everyone's dark secrets, because his powers of persuasion with the advertisers seem to border on the miraculous. At a late date in the production process we asked Kev to join us and do the advertising for Carpworld: we were fortunate indeed that he agreed to take it on. So if you want to advertise with us – and we've got a feeling a great many people will be wanting to after this first issue, Kevin Nash is the man to contact. His details are shown elsewhere in the mag.

We would just warn advertisers that we aren't cheap. We've held out for a standard, and we intend maintaining it. In addition we have gone to a great deal of trouble to make Carpworld the carp magazine with the biggest circulation . . . by far. Because we advertise Angling Publications, and Kevin himself is an advertiser on a large scale, we know that the cost of an advert is immaterial. The key aspect is THE RETURN on the money spent. So with Carpworld advertising we are looking to give the best return on investment, and to cut costs would mean cutting quality. Look at the vehicle, look at the circulation, look at the return – then ask for a quote. We won't GIVE you an advert, but we will give you the response, and the return on your investment.

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Letters to the Editor



Carp World
217 Cemetery Road
Sheffield
S11 8FQ

BEST LETTER . . .

We will award a year's free subscription for the best letter published in each issue. The Editor's decision will be final, making him even more unpopular than he is now. Letters of an obscene, offensive nature will be given preference over boring, meaningful, useful ones (only joking, Keith).

Programme Plug

Dear Editor,

Congratulations on the publication of *Carpworld*. When I first started carp fishing back in 1948 the two magazines of the day were "Anglers News" and "Fishing Gazette", both good magazines for the day, but I wished we were then able to get *Carpworld* – still, better late than never.

As Editor of *Carp Fisher*, the *Carp Society* magazine, you will know the quality of magazine we anglers of today require and I believe *Carpworld* is this magazine.

I would just like to draw your readers' attention to my programme, "Hook Line and Sinker" on BBC Radio Lancashire, which is broadcast at 6.45pm on Fridays and on Saturday morning at 7.15am. Shortly it will be possible to purchase a cassette recording which contains some of the best material on "Hook Line and Sinker" and includes vintage Richard Walker interviews.

Tight lines,
Martin James,
Longridge, Lancs.

As a rule we will try not to publish straight commercial plugs like this one, but we've got a soft spot for Martin because he plugs things for us.

Another Plug

Dear Tim,

I can't say how pleased I was to hear about the inception of *Carpworld*. The reasons? Well there are many, but a couple of the most obvious and important are as follows:

Firstly, the need to present a true and honest account of all aspects of the modern carp scene. Lately we (that is carp anglers generally) have taken some stick from various quarters regarding the antics of the undesirable element that sees fit to attach itself to us. I see from some of your advance publicity material that you do NOT intend "glossing" over some of the more unsavoury aspects. The *Carp Society* is leading the way in the fight, and it is a fight, against the fish nickers, the drunks, the bait leavers out, etc., but at last we will have a voice, an unbiased voice, that will reach out from the news stands to help correct the views put forward by some of our critics. The problems are caused by a minority, as always, but there is a problem and there is a minority and we have got to face up to it! The wide circulation of *Carpworld* will also reach the carpman who just can't be bothered to join the *Carp Society*, to the up and coming, and very vulnerable carpman of tomorrow, who has got the impression that carp fishing is all about bivvies, bolt rigs and boilies, so let's hope *Carpworld* reflects some of the more pleasurable aspects: the thrill of floater fishing, the tension of stalking carp at close range, etc. Having said all that I can't help but come back to the problem side of carping. Politics, the antis, the knockers, the self destructive minority, proposed catapult bans – here lies the real threat not only to carp fishing but to angling generally. The part-time, but incredibly hard working members of the *Carp Society* have done and are doing their damnest to put things to rights. If this reads like an advert for the *Society* I make no apology because it is! Can *Carpworld* assist us and take up the mantle? I'm sure it can. I'm also sure that *Carpworld* will go from strength to strength, spreading the word and reflecting the true, magical world of carp fishing.

Best wishes for the future,
Chris Shelley

Dear Tim,

EXCITING NEWS FOR ENGLAND'S SPORT CARP FISHERMEN! At \$0.60 per pound (possibly less), Dan's Fishing Hole Enterprises can deliver live, hard fighting wild carp to England's major trading dock facilities. These carp average 10 pounds or more. A 30 pound carp from American waters is not at all uncommon, a 50 pound carp is more rare, but we have a good number of 50 pound and larger carp!

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Sounds too good to be true, right? Not if I receive serious enquiries from England's sport carp fishermen. Your response is of vital importance to us here at Dan's Fishing Hole Enterprises. We need the following information from you in order to proceed with this project:

Number of pounds or kilo weight you or your friends or clubs would desire to purchase.

Price you are currently paying for live and/or fresh frozen carp, both retail and wholesale.

Only with your response to this enquiry will we be able to determine if there is a strong enough economic market for America's carp in England to make this project feasible. Please let me know your response, whether favourable or unfavourable.

We hope to hear from you soon.

Yours sincerely,
Dan Bovee,
Dan's Enterprises

Too good to be true – right!



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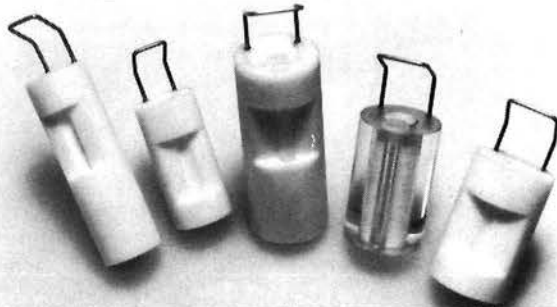
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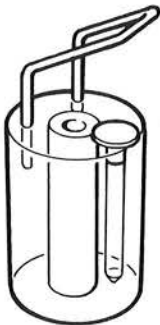


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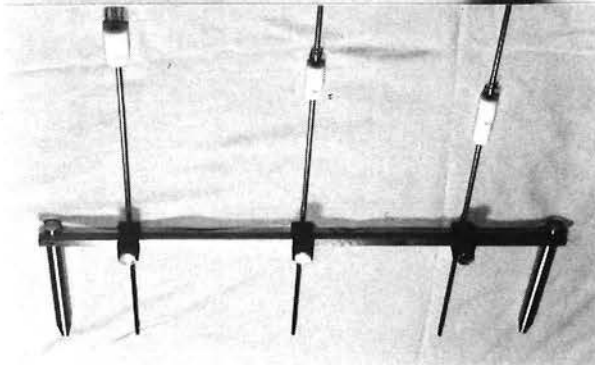
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Start Carping

FIRST CARP!

It's a hot, sticky day in June and you make your way down to the local pond. Tench are your quarry, and if the weather stays as it is it could be a good evening. The water – a typical northern lake, 8 acres in size with weedbeds dotted around the shallower parts of the water. Years of fishing here for tench have shown us that they run to about six pounds, a five pounder being a good average from the water. Even though it's an early season Friday, the lake is almost devoid of anglers; one car in the car park indicates that there must be at least one other angler on the water. Approaching the first of the swims you see two lads dressed in green. "Any luck, mate?" is greeted by howls of laughter and "knowing" smiles from the pair. Carp anglers – must be mad, you think!

Assembling your tackle at the next swim down, you set up your ledger rod; a gentle lob puts the baited tackle some fifteen yards out, next to an extensive weedbed. High overhead the sun beats down on the water, the intensity of its rays almost overpowering on this windless day. Past experience has shown us that the tench don't usually come onto the feed until the first shadows dance on the water's surface – however nothing ventured, nothing gained!

On the left, 10 yards out, and close to a sunken bush, a cluster of bubbles break surface; I wonder if that's a tench grubbing about? Winding the baited tackle in, let's rebait with two grains of corn on a 14 hook. A gentle swing to the left puts the bait just in front of the bubbler. One cupful of corn should do, no point in scaring him off with too much feed is there?

Ten minutes pass and apart from one or two line brushes, and the odd trickle of bubbles, everything seems dead. Suddenly, the bobbin's in the butt ring and the reel is churning, the rod tip bouncing up and down in the rest. Rod up; almost immediately the tip is wrenched down to surface level, and somewhere out there a fish bolts from the angler. Wow! – this tench must be foul hooked as there is no way we can stop it on 6lb line. Slowly, and surely, the run slows down and you turn the fish. Pumping frantically you gain line; soon she's in open water and you are in with a

chance – you hope! No, it's off again, and the rod's bent way past its acceptable test curve – give line once more and keep control. For ten minutes angler and fish play this tug of war game, neither holding the upper hand for any length of time. However your luck's in, and a boil on the surface five yards out indicates you are in control now. Good grief, that's a pale tench – a big one, at that! One more turn on the reel handle brings it closer; staring down into the water you catch your first real glimpse of it – a carp – wow!!

Steady with that net – to lose it now would be a disaster. Still your luck, or more importantly, your hook holds, and the net which looked much too big when you bought it, only just accommodates the carp at the first time of asking.

God, that carp's massive, you think as you grab the net with both hands to lift her ashore. You are about to find out that carp anglers don't miss much; as you turn round the lads dressed in green are now in your swim. Willing hands unhook the fish, a weigh sling and a pair of Avons appear from next door – 12lb 9oz; goodbye tench fishing, hello carp fishing. Welcome to the club!!

That's just one way you could end up catching your first carp.

4 POINTS...

Carp fishing can be a "funny old game" as Greavsie would say. Do you know why – no? Well don't laugh, but carp are hard to catch and carp are easy to catch. That doesn't sound right does it? How can carp be both easy and hard to catch? Perhaps he means that small carp are easy to catch and big ones harder – well not always. Well is it that they are hard to catch at first but get easier as you get older? Well no again. Well what does he mean then?

If you fish a bait which the carp will eat, at a time and a place where it will eat it, with presentation and tackle that allows you to hook and land the fish, you WILL catch carp big and small.

If you fish a bait which the carp don't want to eat, at times and places convenient to you, not the fish, and with tackle that won't hook the fish never mind land it, you WON'T even catch a small carp, never mind a big one!

Read over those last two paragraphs again, and pick out those four important

points to catching carp, big and small –

a) you will need a bait that the carp will eat;

b) you will need to fish it in a place, and at a time that the carp will eat it;

c) you will need to fish it in a way that will fool the carp into thinking it is a safe bait;

d) you will need to be able to land it once you have hooked it.

Get all four points right and you will catch carp both big and small providing you get just one other thing right as well. What's that? Location.

Normally when an angler talks of location, he will be referring to where to find the fish within a given lake, or specific part of it. With a beginner, the location problem begins with which water to fish in the first place. Once that is solved, then we can go on to where to find them in our water. Right now, how do we go about finding a lake to fish?

WATERS

Whilst there are two books on the market listing carp venues, it is generally accepted that there is not, and never could be, a complete A-Z of the country's carp waters. The two books I am referring to are "Anglers Mail Guide to Big Carp Fishing" by Andy Little, and the Beekay Guide to Carp Waters.

Both books list location, size and number of carp as well as addresses to write to for permits. If you take a look in Anglers Mail or Angling Times each week, you will see reports of carp from various waters; sometimes they carry profiles and features on specific waters which in the main are quite accurate.

Local knowledge – if you have fished your local waters for other species, you will probably have a good idea which ones have carp in, and which ones don't. If you do hear talk of carp from venues, always be careful to find out the truth of these stories. The "carpvine" is notorious for distorting carp weights and numbers, both up and down, so do beware before you spend your hard earned cash on that permit! Do your friends carp fish? If so, can they help you? Perhaps they may even take you fishing with them. That way you would be able to learn about location, bait, techniques, etc. in one go! Hopefully, you may even see a fish or two landed.

Try the local tackle shop for advice; they may even have permits and

with Julian Cundiff

information on local waters. General fishing shops probably won't have much idea about specific venues, but specialist shops such as Bob Morris, Penge, Catchum probably will.

You may be one of the lucky few, and find that your area of the country has plenty of carp and carp fishing; if so you will need to decide which venue would suit you best. It is essential that you spend as much time as possible at the water (observing and fishing), so if possible choose one close to home. Leave the travelling for later years.

On large windswept gravel pits, you may be a mile from the carp, so the rule for beginners is the smaller the water, the better. Remember in carp fishing a miss is as good as a mile. Smaller waters will always give you a greater chance of being on the fish quicker, or at least seeing where they are showing themselves.

Having decided on the water, spend as much time there as possible before you even wet a line. This should take in walking round the water, plumbing depths, etc. Time spent doing this is never wasted, you wait and see!

BAITS

Now we have decided on our water, and visited it a couple of times, we must decide which bait to use. Bait can be, and is, a stumbling block for both experienced and inexperienced carp anglers alike. The problem seems not to be one of lack of choice, but over-abundance of choice. Overkill in the extreme!

A little later in the series I will look more closely at bait, and its application; for this basic introductory piece I will confine the discussion to baits which have, and will continue to catch carp on a variety of waters throughout the country.

There are three main forms of bait a beginner should familiarise himself with; boiled baits, floaters and particles.

Firstly, the most popular of all three, the boiled bait or boilie as it is more commonly known. Boiled baits seem to be the most popular form of bait today, and with good reason. Many, if not most of the carp caught each season, both large and small, are caught on boilies of one form or another. At first sight they resemble marble shaped, and visually sized, balls of pleasant, and sometimes

CARP GROUPS

Angling Organisations – for any angler with an interest in carp and carp fishing I would recommend joining either, or both of the well known carp organisations. Both cater for anglers new to carp fishing, and you don't need to qualify for entry, either. Write to –

Carp Society, 33 Covert Road, Hainault, Ilford, Essex.

The Carp Society have regional organisers throughout the country and your own regional organiser may be able to help you with carp fishing venues.

The Carp Anglers Association can be found at CAA HQ, Heywood House, Pill, Bristol.

not so pleasant, pastry. They are in fact made up of ingredients such as Casein, Pruteen, Semolina, Soya Flour, Gluten, etc. etc. These are bound together with eggs, and after being rolled into balls are boiled for between one and three minutes. As well as these ingredients and eggs, the baits are coloured and a flavour of yours, or the manufacturer's choice is added to it. The flavours used are endless; maple, butter, cranberry, strawberry being some of the more popular and most successful flavours. Colours are selected from anywhere within the spectrum!

As you become more experienced in your carp fishing, you will probably want to make up your own baits; as this series is for beginners I would advise starting with the ready rolled baits available on the market today. These ready mades,



manufactured by firms such as Crafty Catcher, Richworth and Catchum, will catch a lot of fish from a wide variety of waters over a good period of time. As they are already made, it saves the beginner getting involved in the messy, and timely business of "rolling your own". Ones which have a proven record all over the country are:

Crafty Catcher – Peanut Pro and Dairy Cream Fudge;
Richworth – Honey Yucatan, Salmon Supreme, Tutti-Frutti;
Catchum – Dairy Cream, Caribbean Liquor.

All these are flavoured, coloured and ready rolled. Each pack contains between 200 and 300 baits, and are priced at around £3 a pack. Shelf life boilies can be left out of the freezer between trips, normal ones have to be kept frozen if you don't want them to go mouldy.

SUSPENDED

Sometimes you may want to present a boilie between 2 and 6 inches off the bottom. This could be where the bottom is covered in silt, and you want the carp to see your bait as it cruises around. To make your ready rolled baits float, you will need to grill, bake or microwave them. This dries out the bait, makes it buoyant and hey-presto, you have a "pop-up". To grill the baits, put them in a pan under the grill at a low level, and keep shaking the pan to turn the baits. After about two minutes or so keep checking them to see if they float by putting one in a glass of water. When it rises to the top you have your floaters. Microwaving is even easier; just pop them in the microwave for 2-4 minutes at level 9 and keep checking them. With both ways trial and error will show you just how long to bake them.

FLOATERS

When the carp are on the surface, on hot calm sunny days, they may not be interested in eating baits presented on the bottom, or near it. However you may be able to tempt one or two with floating baits. These floating baits are usually dog type biscuits, which are very popular with dogs and carp alike. Providing they float, and most dog biscuits do, the carp will probably eat them. Sometimes you can get the carp going crazy on the surface for these baits. The most popular floaters are the Chum Mixers, which come in both packets and bulk bags. Cheap and easily available from supermarkets and pet shops, they are an excellent carp bait. Don't just restrict yourself to Chum Mixers, look on the shelves – there are lots of different forms of biscuits around – meaty, fishy, etc. etc. Providing they float, they may catch!

Particles, pulses or multiples are baits like seeds and nuts which are again very popular with the carp angler. These include dari seed, hemp, tares, peanuts,

PARTICLES

chick peas, tiger nuts and hazel nuts. Again you can purchase them from health food shops, and sometimes pet shops.

Particles, as you will find out, are usually very hard when you first buy them. To soften them, you must soak them overnight, and then give them at least a twenty minute boil in hot water. This will quite visibly soften tares, chicks, etc. whilst tiger nuts and hazel nuts are very difficult to soften. Like chum mixers, and other dog biscuits, you can add a colour and flavour to your particles to fool the carp; on most waters this just isn't necessary.

ASSESSING THE WATER

Right, we know which lake to fish, and what to fish with; now we need to decide where on our lake we will fish. Let's have a look at features you can find on lakes. Many of these features prove attractive to carp and will be a good starting point for the beginner to fish. By the term "features" I am talking about weedbeds, bars, plateaus, snags, etc.

Firstly, weedbeds: weedbeds are found on most lakes, and are very popular areas to fish. The weed is not always the same; sometimes it is a thin straggly type with blooms on it; this can be difficult to play a carp through. Other weed is more dense and you can play the carp through it with gentle pressure. No matter what type of weed it is, the carp will usually visit it to feed off the microscopic bugs and insects which adhere to the weed stalks. Weedbeds sometimes mark the edge and limits of the carp's patrol routes; they are usually found in the shallower areas of the lake bottom. They are attractive to carp, and they are certainly worth fishing to.

Snags can be in the form of underwater branches, trees and other obstructions. Whilst they are a potential fish holding feature, they are also a potential disaster spot for fish and tackle losses. Like the iceberg, often 90% of what you cannot see is underwater, all you will see is the 10% above the water. Until you become proficient at snag fishing and have the correct tackle and ability to catch the fish, they are best avoided.

Both weedbeds and snags are visible features for you to fish to; there are of course other features which are underwater and not so apparent to the naked eye. Here I am talking of bars, plateaus, gulleys and margins. To some people these may be foreign terms so let's look at each feature to understand its importance.

Bars – an underwater ridge which runs along the lake bottom. They are sometimes formed by the dumping of

spoils in the water and resemble little underwater hills. They may be as little as 10 yards long or as long as the length of the pit. On the top of the bar will be shallow water; sometimes you will find weed growth here. Very good areas to cast a bait are on top of the bar or alongside the bar.

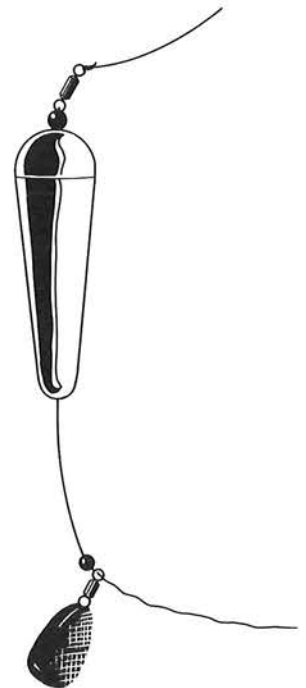
Plateau – an area of shallow water of usually uniform depth. Like a table top in a room. Good area to cast a bait to when fish are cruising about during the day.

Gulley – an area of deeper water running between two bars, or bar and mainland. Often weed grows prolifically in these gulleys and they are natural food deposits so they are worth casting a bait to.

Margin – the area of water closest to the bank; fish often move along the margins so drop a bait close in to take advantage of this.

PLUMBING THE DEPTH

Right, you know what the features are, but how do we go about finding a feature which is underwater? The answer is plumbing the depth. The easiest way to plumb the depth is to set up a rod and line, attach a lead to a large swivel and slide it up the line (like a running lead), next a bead and tie on the end of your line a large pike float. Cast out into the water and wind in until you can feel the float tighten up to the lead. Open the bail arm but hold the line. Release line twelve inches at a time from the spool and wait until float pops up. That then becomes your depth. Wind tight again but this time wind a couple more turns to drag lead and float along the bottom. Test depth and repeat until you have built up a good picture of the water's features. Easy, isn't it?

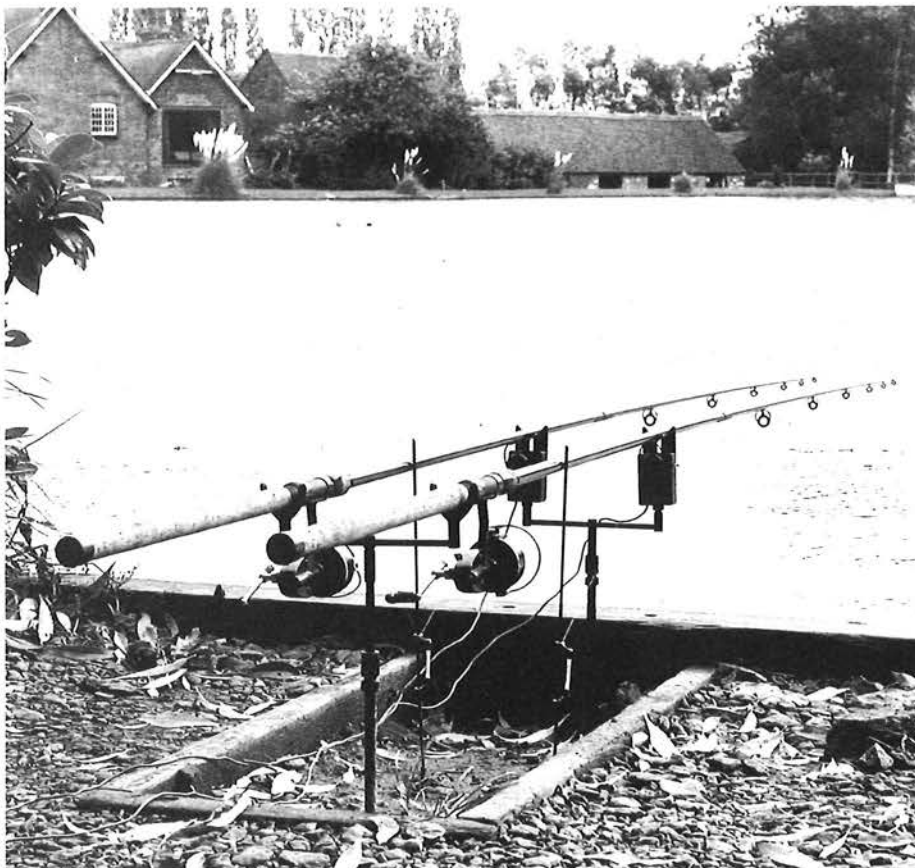


A depth testing set up.

As well as location by features, you can also choose your swim by looking for where the carp show themselves. Carp in some waters are frequently leaping about, in others less so. The best time to observe this is first thing in a morning (urrr!) and just as the light falls in an evening. Calm conditions are obviously best i.e. to see the splash, but you should be able to spot a dark shape leap over ruffled bright water surface as well. Try plumbing where fish have shown themselves, you may find a feature such as a bar, plateau or weedbed. Fish rolling or leaping over an area does not always indicate feeding fish, they may of course be travelling between feeding areas.

If all else fails, try fishing where you have seen other anglers catch carp. Do not jump into prebaited swims, use a bit of common sense. A word or two to an angler leaving a swim may result in a tip to help you catch one. If he obviously doesn't want to disclose his fish or lose that swim, respect that and move on to another area of the lake. Remember, you may be in his position one day!

Well, that's location and bait sorted out; now all we need to do is go out and catch some carp! Our aim will be to catch one off the top and one off the bottom; both situations require different tackle, approach and methods. I won't go into detail on tackle as that will be the next part in the series, rather I will describe the basic approach you will need. Let's go out and catch them!



A typical carp fishing set up at Cuttle Mill Fishery, Tamworth.

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S-SG	3000 285/8lb	£29.90	£7.76
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The best reel we have seen for distance casting. Wide spool and superb line lay adds yards to your cast.

3000	£64.90	£12.00
3500	£66.90	£13.00
4000	£69.90	£14.00
4500	£74.90	£15.00

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HOW TO ORDER - 1. All orders for £5.00 or over sent post free except for bait. Orders under £6.00 add £1.00 part post and packing, small items add £6.00 if Securicor required. 2. Rods under 5ft 6in packed length, post free. Usual delivery 10-21 days. 3. All rods over 5ft 6in add £6.00 for Securicor. 4. Please note: We advise all rod purchasers to use the Securicor service which is speedier and safer. All the above applies to UK mainland only - N.I., Eire and Overseas please phone. 5. Carriage on powder bait/boilies 50p first pack, 25p each additional pack.



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**NEW
FOR '88**

THE PRODUCT CARP ANGLERS HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR

KRYSTON MULTI-STRAND HOOKLENGTH MATERIAL

With braided lines rapidly appearing to lose their effectiveness on many waters today, the specialist angler now requires a suitable alternative!

Kryston Multi-Strand is a new astonishing ultrafine diameter hooklength material, designed for today's specialist angler who requires the highest standards in bait presentation.

K.M.S. represents a dramatic breakthrough in hooklengths showing very significant advantages over many other materials currently used, and is set to overcome the difficulties of bait presentation and rejection of 'problem baits' on today's highly pressurised waters.

K.M.S. is a product of high technology developed specifically for its strength and suppleness combining extreme lightweight and minimum diameter with excellent resistance to abrasion.

K.M.S. is produced from over 230 high tensile strength micro diameter fibres, which, in its full state breaks at approx 70lb breaking strain, and can

be easily split by the angler for the strength that he requires into truly advanced hooklengths.

As a hooklength K.M.S. is a carp anglers dream. Its qualities of being totally limp, ultra soft, and extreme suppleness are second to none. Combine them with its ultrafine diameter and phenomenal strength and you have in our opinion, the finest hooklength ever available to the specialist angler.

Emerse K.M.S. in water and the magic will begin. Its individual gossamer like strands will immediately start to open and separate allowing your hookbait to behave in a far more natural manner than was previously thought possible.

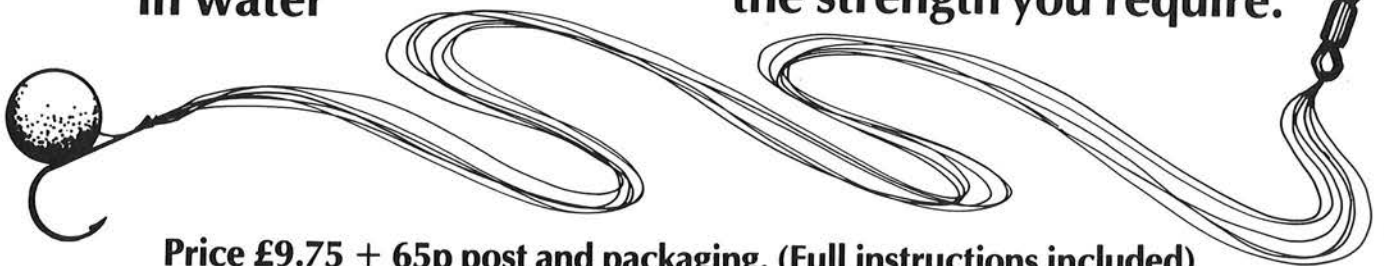
K.M.S has been rigorously field tested by many anglers during the past eight months and has been a total revelation in use. It has been

devastating on waters where the majority of anglers are using standard terminal rigs and has proved itself conclusively to be far more acceptable to carp than any other hooklength material we have tried. Its strength has allowed us to fish anywhere even on the most snag ridden waters, its supple action in water has to be seen to be believed and its resistance to abrasion and high knot strength has left us in no doubt that this material is the best thing since 'the hair'. Now you can fish with a hooklength that looks more at home on a matchrod, but with the added assurance of K.M.S.'s amazing strength.

1 spool of K.M.S. split equally into four will give you 400ft of hooklength material which will break at approx 17½lb b.s. Multi-Strand is available in 100ft lengths.

★ As used by Leading Anglers

- ★ Ultrafine diameter
- ★ Reach new heights in bait presentation
- ★ Virtually invisible in water
- ★ Why take risks, you don't need powergum with K.M.S.
- ★ Versatile, you choose the strength you require.



Price £9.75 + 65p post and packaging. (Full instructions included)

Cheques/P.O.'s made payable to:—

**KRYSTON PRODUCTS, 7 BARNFIELD DRIVE, WESTHOUGHTON,
BOLTON, LANCs BL5 3UA.**

Trade enquiries welcome.

Biggest thing since the Hair?

KRYSTON Multistrand. Of course you get used to the blurb on the advertising artwork that drops on the mat when a magazine is being put together. The Kryston advert was no different. Yet another product that was going to change the world and drop fish in your lap in return for very little extra effort. The drawing in the advert was explicit, but unconvincing; the text was good, but you never see an advert CRITICISING the product it's trying to sell. I got on with the mag with a question mark hanging over the Kryston line.

Dave Chilton came on the phone, extolling the virtues of the line, as he would. He was realistic about it though. He'd been around a long time and had hesitated about putting the line out because he wasn't sure that we needed anything else that would make carp fishing easier for people. But on the other hand he felt that the cost of the line would put off all but the most committed of carpmen; and that even after the financial aspect had been overcome, it had to be accepted that the line wasn't easy to use, and would sit expensively unused in many tackle boxes.

As it turned out Dave was very realistic about all aspects of the line. I went to a meeting at Stoke, he came across with the spool. It felt exceptionally soft, but I'd nothing to compare it with at the time, so I didn't realise how soft. By the time I got it home it had vanished, so I didn't get to try it out even then (vanished equals one of my friends had walked off with it!).

My first chance to study the line came at a meeting in Warrington. Dave was there with a stand, and he showed me the line in its original 70lb state, which is equivalent to a limp 15-18lb line of any other origin, then showed me a split down version with a breaking strain of about 17lb. It was incredibly soft and fine.

In water the line separates, the strands becoming individual gossamer-like threads, and you can barely feel the 17lb version. The line feels very reliable, and all the tests I've carried out on it have shown the claimed breaking strains to be accurate. This line is undoubtedly the waited-for compromise between fineness and strength – BUT, like anything else it isn't going to catch fish for you, and there are problems in using it.

Because it is so limp and soft the line is very tangly. I've only used it once in

my actual fishing and I haven't fully got over the risk of tangles. That is not to say that it tangles every time, but once it is wet, the risk is increased. I'm going to have to change my terminal tackle slightly to accommodate the new line and I'm at the drawing board stage with the changes at present. I know that others are using it very successfully, that Dave's friends have been catching fish on the line for the last few months, that a similar line accounted for some very big fish in the south of England last season, and

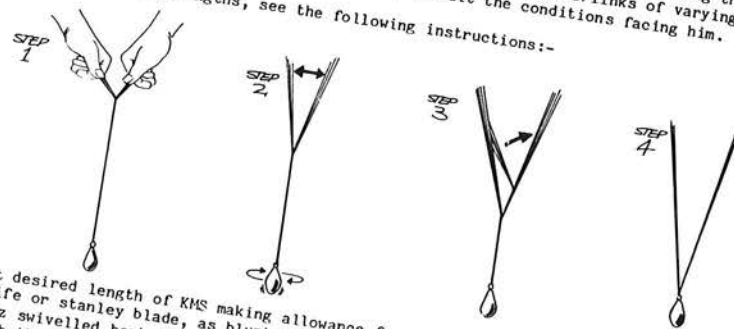
that Bernard Loftus has already had a 36lb-plus fish on the line from Harefield this season.

I'm emphasising the point about it being hard to use because I think some of you will give up on it without trying to really come to terms with the use of it. Persevere, and sort it out. We had all sorts of problems with the hair when news of that first leaked out, but they were all overcome. Kryston is reliable, and the first major breakthrough in presentation since the hair made its stunning impact.

KRYSTON MULTI-STRAND

It has long been common knowledge that the use of a Multi-Stranded Hooklength offers the specialist angler one of the finest forms of bait presentation possible. The problem up until now has been that in order to tie a successful one the angler has been faced with a headscratching, fiddly, bothersome affair, more suited to the skills of a watchmaker than an angler. Secondly, no hooklength material so far available has given the angler the combined strength and fine diameters that he requires. KMS completely alleviates this problem at a stroke. A product of space age technology, KMS has been designed for the specialist angler to use as very advanced hooklengths and leaders for not only carp, but all species of shy and wary specimen fish. By simply dividing and separating the main column of material supplied, the angler can produce hooklengths/links of varying strengths combined with micro fine diameters to suit the conditions facing him.

To produce your hooklengths, see the following instructions:-



1. Cut desired length of KMS making allowance for knots. Use sharp scissors, modellers knife or stanley blade, as blunt instruments will give an uneven cut. Tie a 2½ oz or 3 oz swivelled bomb with a simple overhand knot to one end of KMS. The heavier the bomb the better. Tease open the fibres of the opposite end of material until you have approx. 50% of material between the thumb and forefinger of each hand. Hold bomb as you would with a decorators plumb line. Fig. 1
 2. The bomb will now automatically start to spin causing the material to unwind and separate into two main strands. Fig. 2
 3. You may occasionally have to assist the unwinding process if the odd strand(s), which will be clearly visible, have strayed to the wrong side. By simply gathering and separating the offending strands and transferring them to the opposite side, the bomb will once more start to revolve and the unwinding process will continue. Fig. 3
 4. You will now have two main strands of hooklength material which will break at approx. 35 lbs unknotted. Repeat steps 1 to 4 for finer lengths. Fig. 4
- Alternative method should you wish to split material by hand without the aid of a bomb, simply find the halfway point of the length. Tease open say 50% of the fibres to form a loop. Place closed fingers inside loop, and then with your free hand hold the opposite end of material firmly under steady pressure. At the same time splay your fingers open, gradually working them along its entire length. This will cause the material to divide itself. Assist this process by gently turning and twisting the end of material to divide free hand. Repeat for opposite end. Do not attempt to split KMS from one end without the aid of a bomb.

* See information on knots.



Kryston man – Dave Chilton with one of the fish he caught testing his revolutionary hooklength material.

-2-

You will now have micro fine diameter hooklength(s) of amazing strength, which when emersed in water will behave as a single type line. Should you wish to use KMS as a multi-stranded medium, i.e. allowing the fibres to open and separate in water, simply tie on your hook, tie a bomb with a simple overhand knot on to the other end of the link and let the bomb revolve. When the bomb ceases to spin, the fibres for your hooklength will lie parallel, giving you a multi-stranded hooklength. Remove bomb from hooklength.

KNOTS The fisherman's friend or foe? No two anglers will tie the same two knots with equal effectiveness. We therefore, recommend that after tying you make sure the knot you select is sound and its strength be tested by scales. Any form of strangulation knot will weaken any form of line currently available, Mono, Floss, Dacron, Kevlar, Wire, even Kryston! If in doubt, make various test links and test their breaking strains without a knot, and then with knots. This will then give you guidelines with which to go by for strength and diameters. Generally speaking you can use most forms of knots popular today with specialist anglers. However, certain knots appear to give better strength with KMS, these are **SHIVELLS** Palomars, **HOOKS** Snelled Knots, Domhoffs, with or without spades, Multi-turned whipping knots and Palomars, **LEADERS** KMS full strength, Double Grinders, Allbright Knots and Four Turned Water Knots, we use six turns. **

A few hints on tying your hooklengths after splitting By moistening the material this will cause it to behave as one, making it easier to work with. Secondly, this will considerably reduce friction, especially if you draw the knot together slowly. After tying your hook, hold it firmly in one hand and with the other hand hold the material firmly between thumb and forefinger, just above the knot. Draw your hand away from the hook applying steady pressure to the hooklength along its full length. This will take any looseness out of your hooklength making it totally uniform. Now you can tie your swivel on.

We, along with the many other anglers who have used KMS, see no reason in splitting the material down to ridiculously fine levels, because of its incredible strength plus its micro fine diameter, power gum rigs are now a thing of the past. We have had tremendous success splitting KMS by two or three times - the more fibre you use, the more resilient your hooklength will be. By making a hooklength which will break at around 12 lbs b.s. and comparing it to one which breaks at around 20 lbs b.s. you will be really pushed to tell the difference visually. Therefore, use it sensibly and you will gain the rewards.

Please keep us informed of all your successes **GOOD LUCK!**

DAVE CHILTON

KRYSTON MULTI-STRAND

** Should you not be familiar with any of these knots we strongly recommend Alan Vares excellent "The Hardy Book of Fisherman's Knots" available from any Hardy shop or direct from Camden Publishing Company Limited, 323 Upper Street, Islington, London, N1 2QY. Price £2.00.

KRYSTON TIP...

You can knot Kryston to reduce the effect of the strands separating in situations where tangles are a problem.

This does not reduce the strength of the line.

KRYSTON MULTI-STRAND HOOKLENGTH MATERIAL STOCKISTS

Leslies of Luton
89 Park Street
Luton
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Greenford
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Turnford, Broxbourne
Herts.
Tel: 0992 468799

Reading Angling Centre
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Avenue,
Reading
Berks.
Tel: 0734 872216

Bob Frost Tackle
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Leamington Spa
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Tel: 0926 832328

Walkers of Trowell
Nottingham Road
Trowell
Nottingham
NG9 3PA
Tel: 0602 301816
or 307798

Prescot Angling Centre
18 St. Helens Road
Prescot
Merseyside
L34 6HR
Tel: 051 426 5011

The Friendly Fisherman
25 Camden Road
Tunbridge Wells
Kent
Tel: 0892 28677

Penge Angling
7 Croydon Road
Penge
London SE20
Tel: 01 778 4652

Kent Angling
London Road Trading
Estate, Ramsgate, Kent
Tel: 0843 592924



Bernard Loftus at Harefield

Pictured above is BCSG/Carp Society member Bernard Loftus with a 30+ carp from the notoriously difficult William Boyers' Colne Valley water Harefield Lake. The fish was part of an incredible catch which included the following carp; 36-4 mirror, 30-12 mirror, 27-00 common, 26-12 Italian mirror, 23-2 common, 20-8 mirror, + 10 doubles. Bernard was using our Multi-stranded Hooklength material, and while admitting that the carp were strongly on the bait, feels that this astonishing result was almost entirely due to the fact that the fish were totally unable to detect the hooklength material.

KRYSTON – THE CARP ANGLERS' HOOKLENGTH

Now available from the dealers shown on this page.

Our hooklength is proving so popular that we are appointing new dealers by the day and by the time this appears there could well be a retail outlet in your area. If you have any problems obtaining the hooklength locally, see our advert on page 14.

CARPWORLD SUBSCRIPTIONS

Please note that the subscription slip rates are for the next **four** issues of **Carpworld**

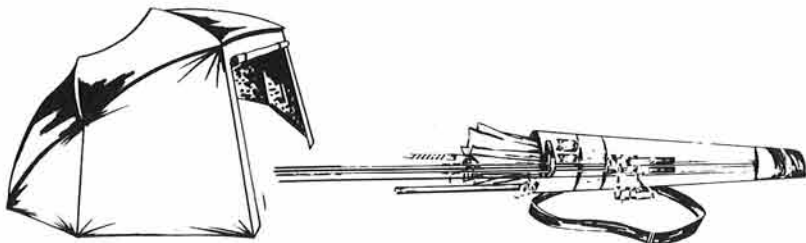
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TERRY EUSTACE



BROLLY/REST SLING DE-LUXE. To my original design this sling takes your brolly, rests and banksticks (with buzzer bars and optonics on if required) plus landing net and pole. Ideal for the angler who doesn't want to vegetate in an empty swim — **£12.95 p & p 96p**

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BROLLY/STORMSIDES SLING. Want to set up camp in a couple of minutes? Want to stow your week-end home and change swims quickly? This item takes all items as shown for the Brolly/Rod Sling but is wide enough so that you can carry the brolly partly folded with storm-sides attached. — **£19.95 p & p £1.25**

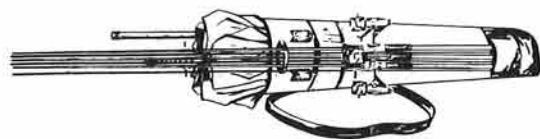
VELCRO 50" NUBROLLI. This is the standard weavelock nubrolli but with velcro sewn around the perimeter to allow storm-sides to be fitted tightly without the usual draughty gaps. A piece of velcro is supplied for you to sew to your existing storm-sides. Check the price of velcro and you will find this is an excellent buy. — **£51.75 p & p £3.00**

VELCRO 50" STORMSIDES — These storm-sides, with door, have velcro sewn around the perimeter and a matching length of velcro supplied for you to sew to your brolly. Ask my advice for the best way to do this. — **£49.50 p & p £2.00**

VELCRO BROLLY/STORMSIDES
— Both items supplied — **£99.50 p & p £4.00**

NOTE:— Once you have attached the storm-sides to the brolly you can remove if you wish at the end of a session. The real advantage is gained however if you leave them permanently attached and carry the whole lot in the Brolly/Stormsides Sling. This allows you to set up or pack up in a matter of a couple of minutes.

50" Weavelock Nubrolli.....	£40.95
50" Weavelock Tilt.....	£36.50
45" Weavelock Nubrolli.....	£36.95
45" Weavelock Tilt.....	£30.95
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Fox K.M. Bowframe MK 2 Bedchair..	£82.00
p & p £4.50	
Mattress for Above. p & p £1.25.....	£19.95
Everlevel Chair. p & p £1.95.....	£40.38



KRYSTON MULTI-STRAND HOOKLENGTH MATERIAL

**AVAILABLE NOW!
AT THIS SHOP**

- ★ Ultrafine diameter
- ★ Reach new heights in bait presentation
- ★ Virtually invisible in water
- ★ Why take risks, you don't need powergum with K.M.S.
- ★ Versatile, you choose the strength you require.

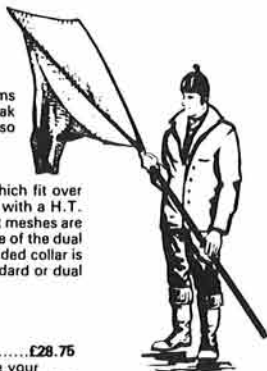
£10.10 inc p&p



LANDING NETS

DE-LUXE LANDING NET—There are some really bad landing nets around: Arms that stick through the meshes, spreader blocks that are nylon or plastic and break when merely shaking the net dry, poles that are nowhere near strong enough and so on. The following nets are of my own manufacture.

42" MODEL—Strong fibre glass arms with machined alloy cord attachments which fit over the arm ends. The cord is actually 150lb nylon. The spreader block is cast alloy with a H.T. standard thread and unlike the cheap plastic ones virtually indestructible. The net meshes are micro topped where the arms fit in and standard mesh bottoms, except in the case of the dual mesh which has a micro base. The pole is of heavy duty fibre glass and the threaded collar is machined from solid brass and fits over the end of the pole. State whether standard or dual mesh required.



42" Landing net complete
(without pole) p&p £3.....**£29.75**
6ft heavy duty pole p&p £3.....£14.95

36" Landing net complete
(without pole) p&p £3.....**£28.75**
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Just add dye, flavour and eggs

Amiveg	1lb - £2.25, 5lb	£10.75
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	per pint	per kilo
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Rennet Casein (U.S. Spec.)	£1.90	£4.50
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Sodium Caseinate	£1.25	£4.50
Calcium Caseinate	£1.30	£4.80
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Laprow	£1.25	£3.30
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Soya Flour	£0.55	£1.90
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Black, Brown, Blue, Green, Yellow, Orange, Red, 50gm pot	£2.25
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..... 50ml bottle - £2.10, 500ml bottle - £13.95

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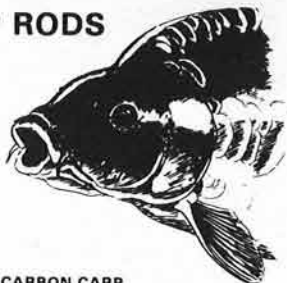
Red Berry Soft	£5.25
Cream	£3.25
Banana	£4.75
Mellowspice	£5.75
Spicy Berry	£5.50
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Peppermint	£2.75
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CARP RODS



12 FT C/TIP CARBON CARP

Ref. T300 - Two piece spigot blanks with 1 1/2 lb test curve and compound tip. Although this rod has a light test curve, with a compound wall thickness top section bending very easily initially the butt is very rigid. This feature gives the rod such a light test and an almost out of proportion casting and striking potential. I must emphasise that the rod is into its test curve before the "lock-up" point is achieved, so that the rod is ideal for playing fish safely without pulling hooks, yet power is available for that situation when you have to apply full pressure for turning a fish or making very long casts. Handle and rings as T210
BLANK ONLY - £52.95
KIT - £79.95
ROD - £93.95

A range of rods built on Armalite blanks which are constructed from Celion/Kevlar/Carbon giving very slim and soft actioned rods. Eleven foot models available on request.

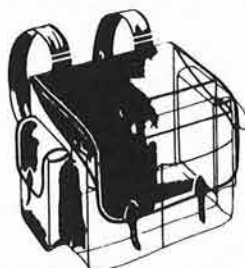
Model	Blank	Kit	Rod
12ft by 1lb Test	£62.95	£88.95	£102.95
12ft by 1 1/2 lb Test	£64.25	£90.25	£104.25
12ft by 1 1/2 lb Test	£66.45	£91.55	£106.55
12ft by 1 1/2 lb Test	£68.75	£92.85	£108.85
12ft by 2lb Test	£67.95	£92.85	£106.85
12ft by 2 1/2 lb Test	£67.95	£92.85	£106.85
13ft by 2 1/2 lb Test	£71.45	£96.35	£110.35

12 FT L.R. CARBON CARP

Ref. T202 - Two piece spigot 2 1/2 lb Test Curve. You don't need ultra fast action to cast a long way with some carbons. This rod bends easily through its length when playing fish at close range and this operation is a pleasure rather than a nerve wracking experience as with some pole vaulting sticks with rings on. It has nevertheless cast a 2 1/2 oz bomb and boiled a measured 137 yards for an angler who has never had casting instruction. The handle is the same as for the T210 and I use a total of eight Fuji rings being a BNHG25 and six single leg pattern intermediates. Red eyes add £2.
BLANK ONLY - £69.95
KIT - £84.85
ROD - £98.85

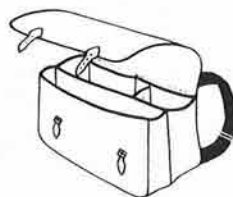
12 FT CARBON CARP

Ref. T210 - Two piece with overfit spigot ad 1 1/2 lb test curve this rod is as near as you can get to an all round carp rod. I have used it at close range (float fishing at the rod tip) with 6lb lines, at 100 yards plus with 8lb line and a shock leader, and in dense lilies with 15lb line. Big fast moving fish hooked at close quarters can be played very safely with the smooth action that the rod has whilst the blank is responsive enough to set the hook very firmly when say floater fishing at long range. Whilst the rod has banked innumerable 20 and 30lb carp it is also used by a number of customers for long range leger/feeder fishing and also as a feeder rod for barbel. I took a 26 1/2 lb pike November '85 using mine. A truly versatile rod and unlike many carbons available a well tried and tested and thoroughly reliable one. The handle comprises a FPS D188 reel fitting with a short flared frog grip and 4 1/2" long parallel rear and butt grips in Duplon. The rings comprise a total of 11 Fuji's with a three leg (BNHG) size 20 butt ring and single leg (BSPHG) intermediates. Fuji's with dark red cushion (instead of green/white) available at £2 extra - rods only.
BLANK ONLY - £58.95
KIT - £85.95
ROD - £99.95



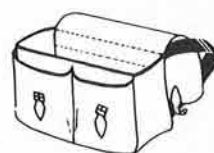
TACKLE BAG/RUCKSACK

Ideal for the week-ender or for the angler with a lot of gear to carry. The main compartment is 6" wide, 16" deep and 20" across. The front compartment is 3" wide, 10" deep and 20" across and on the front of this there are two map/licence/catapult etc. pockets. The main flap has side gussets so that even driving rain will not enter these compartments. There are a further two side pockets 3" by 6" by 10" deep. The back of the bag is well padded for extra carrying comfort and this is further aided by the two wide and comfortable carrying straps. A really well designed bag for the serious angler.
£28.95 - p & p £1.50



LARGE TACKLE BAG

Once again an exclusive product by my own design this has proved to be a very successful item. As with the Tackle Bag/Rucksack the material is nylon reinforced PVC which is extremely hard wearing. The main compartment is 20" by 12" deep with a divider 6" from one end. There is also a 20" by 4" by 12" deep front compartment. Two map/licence pockets stretch the whole length of the main compartment. Tackle is very easily accessible from this well made bag which also features a wide and comfortable carrying strap.
£16.95 - p & p £1.25



SMALL TACKLE BAG

For the angler who wants to travel light and cover a lot of water this bag is ideal. The main compartment is 18" by 12" by 6" with two front pockets. Once again a wide and comfortable and adjustable carrying strap. Although the smallest of the bags it will, if you carry the amount of tackle that suffices on 95% of occasions, hold all you need for a days fishing.
£12.95 - p & p 95p



- CARRIAGE -
Small items 50p
Large items £1



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Everlevel adjustable chair	£40.38
Fox standard Adjusta-level bedchair	£82.90
Fox Super De-Luxe Bedchair	£139.90
Fox Adjusta-level chair	£42.80
Carriage on chairs	£3.00

CARRIAGE (where not shown)

Rods & kits	£2.95, Small items 50p, Large items £1
Baits 1 lb	85p
2 lb	£1.65
3 lb or 4 lb	£2.00
5 lb or 6 lb	£2.50
7 lb or 8 lb	£2.75
10 lb or more	Post Free
Ingredients: 1 kilo	£1.85, 2 kilo £2.20, 3 kilo £3.10
4 or 5 kilo	£3.10, 10 kilo or more £4.00
Include Visa & Access	

Look Back at Carp Fishing

with **CHRIS BALL**

THE late Richard Walker wrote in a letter to the "Fishing Gazette": "We're having great fun with this Carpcatchers' Club affair." When you consider that up to 1939 only four carp over 20lb had ever been caught in Britain, while during the 1952 season eight had been landed, four of which had fallen to members of the CCC, you can see that he had a point.

At that time the club held the following records:

British Empire Record Common Carp – 44lb; British Isles Record Common Carp – 44lb; British Isles Record King Carp – 31lb 4oz; British Isles Second Largest King Carp – 28lb 10oz; British Isles Second Largest Common Carp – 25lb 12oz; British Isles Third Largest Common Carp – 22lb 12oz.

This was indeed a fine record of which Richard Walker and his friends could be justifiably proud.

Happenings in the carp fishing world received wide publicity during 1952. There was a possibility that anglers regarded that season simply as a lucky period in which a record number of big carp were caught, but looking back, those days were the manifestation of considerable progress that had been made in the art of carp catching.

Before 1930 much had been learned about carp and carp fishing at Cheshunt, then Albert Buckley caught the 26lb Mapperley fish, using fine tackle. There was little doubt this capture had the effect of causing many anglers to conclude that correct tackle for carp fishing must be superfine and that the most effective method was float fishing in deep water – for it was in these circumstances that Albert Buckley took his fish.

The CCC found that these suppositions were wrong, but it was little wonder, nine times out of ten, that in the years following 1930 a great many anglers came to regard carp fishing as a waste of time. However, there were those who rejected this view and continued to fish for carp. The members of the Becontree and District AS in Essex were starting to prove that large carp were catchable. In 1945 "BB" emerged and his writings on the subject were read by carp fishers everywhere. For a time he was "the man" for information about carp and carp

fishing. His own experiences also added to the fund of general knowledge.

In 1951 the Carpcatchers Club was formed. This resulted in the exchange of information and discussion of various carp fishing problems between the members, and the opportunity for them to fish one another's home waters.

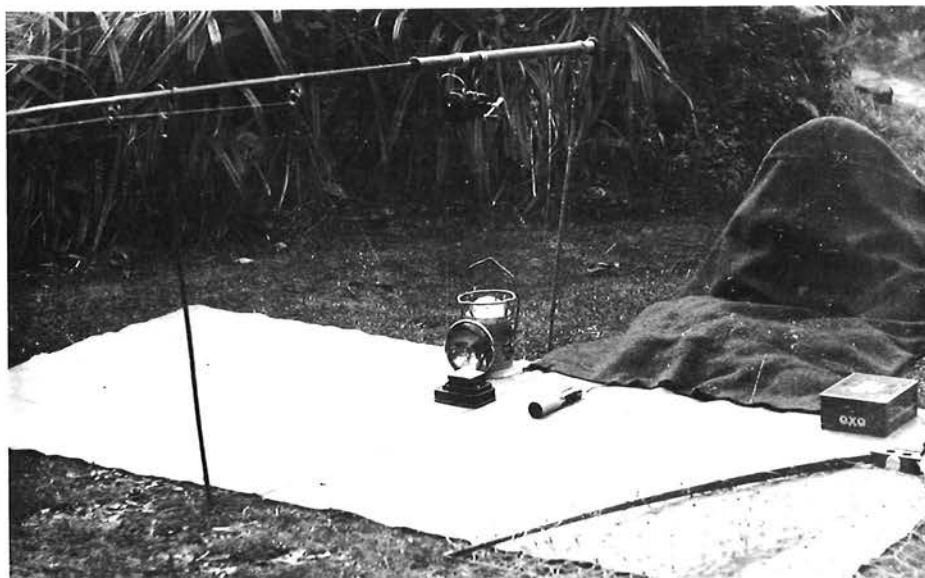
The consequent growth of knowledge and improvement in carp fishing tackle was considerable. It was found that in addition to individual problems associated with specific waters, there were many which were common to all, and in some cases combined discussion gave the solution!

During 1952 there were many difficulties, and amongst these was the unusually prolific growth of silkweed in many waters. Dagenham Lake and Redmire Pool were particularly difficult; at Redmire the growth of algae was so great that for most of the summer half the total surface was covered with a mat of scum which moved about with the wind.

It is significant that of the eight fish weighing over 20lb which were caught in 1952, only one was taken by other than what Richard Walker described as the "anti-silkweed method" (off bottom bait). That fish was Pete Thomas's 28lb 10oz Redmire fish. Of the other seven, three were caught with floating crust, two were caught on crust which was allowed to rise about four inches above a running lead and two were caught on balanced paste and crust baits: these were designed to sink slowly and rest on top of the weed rather than sinking into it.

Special tackle which had been developed was tested thoroughly and came through with flying colours. Also an increasing number of clubs were stocking their stillwater fisheries with carp, and it could be fairly said that the idea that carp were too difficult to catch, and not worth the trouble, had been exploded once and for all.

Of the large carp caught that year, which of course included Dick's 44lb



Richard Walker's carp fishing set up, 1952 style. Note "clip" bite alarm which worked on the principle of two contacts kept apart by the line. When a run developed the contacts came together and sounded until someone turned the device off! This set up is the exact one used when Dick landed the 44lb carp.

record, the one which a number of specialist carp fishers regarded as the outstanding individual feat was John Norman's capture of an 18lb 8oz carp from the Mapperley shallows. He knew that previously all Mapperley carp had been caught on roach tackle in the deep water at the embankment end of the reservoir. He also knew that Albert Buckley had declared that the carp could only be caught when strong winds cooled the weedy shallows in which they principally fed. It was in these rare instances that Buckley caught his fish.

In 1951 John Norman was to explore the Mapperley shallows, and sure enough he discovered carp cruising between the weeds, sunken tree branches and other snags. He eventually found a shallow area which shelved to deeper water either side. Then followed a period of careful baiting up, every care being taken to position his groundbait accurately. Then after all that a domestic difficulty kept him at home until the carp season was over.

That was not the end of the story. John Norman's insatiable determination, which characterises carp anglers, found him at the waterside in 1952 making renewed preparations: armed with Carpcatchers' Club designed tackle he set forth to catch the allegedly impossible Mapperley shallows carp.

At around 5.15am he had a run; as the line whipped through the rings he left his cover which he'd been sitting in all night, flicked over the pick up on the reel – and made contact! The fish bored heavily but putting on maximum pressure he turned the fish only inches from a heavily snagged area.

From then on the fish kept in open water in front of him and except for a last minute fumble, when he tried to net it with trembling hands, it rolled into the net.

As the scale pointer wobbled around 18-8 to 18-12, his feelings were mixed. There it was, the first carp taken from the Mapperley shallows, but was it his? Only one pair of hands had handled the rod, but more than one brain had helped accomplish the downfall of that carp. Stirring stuff!

That season also saw the birth of a rod designed specially for carp fishing – the Mk IV. The rod proved capable of handling the largest fish, without being too hard on smaller carp, or in any way cumbersome to use. There is now little doubt that the principles of its design influenced future rod making in no small degree.

In 1952 great progress had been made in this specialised field. To catch a "glass case" was no longer considered a matter of luck, or of fishing for anything that came along and hoping for the best. Some anglers were now FISHING for big fish.

A further look back at carp fishing's early days with Chris will appear in our next issue.

RECORD KING CARP

31½ lb., 18 years old, recently caught
Ross-on-Wye

We supplied this monster as a yearling in 1934. It is from the same s'rain as the stock we now distribute. TRY SOME.

The Surrey Trout Farm, HASLEMERE



Above:
This advert appeared in early 1952 inviting people to "try some". Many clubs and individuals did. Now in the 80's, some of these fish form part of our big fish scene.

Left:
The first big carp of 1952. Richard Walker holds Pete Thomas's 28lb 10oz Redmire King Mirror Carp.



Right:
First twenty for Richard Walker – 1.8.52. A fish of 22lb 12oz from Dagenham Lake.



Left:
John Norman at Mapperley, seen here returning a night-caught bream.



...cause for concern?

HORROR STORY

FROM 1st October 1987 it has been a criminal offence, six months stir or £200 or both, to supply a consumer with goods that are unsafe. I suppose that doesn't apply to carp, which is a shame. But to carp anglers, well that could be another story.

A carp angler decides to add one of the new EA (ethyl alcohol) flavours to his bait mix, cigarette in mouth (can't use fag in case it upsets the iron hoofs amongst us). He takes the cap off the bottle and brings it up to his nose for a good sniff. There is an almighty explosion as the fumes from the bottle burst into flames. This throws the poor guy across the floor, banging his head on the kitchen table, which dislodges one of the legs and table falls over and chops his head off. Was he the original head banger? Ten minutes flat and the widow is claiming damages, and not for the kitchen table! But off who? The supplier, that's who. Is there an EA flavour on the market with a sticker telling people it's volatile? Will I be inundated with letters from EA manufacturers telling me their product has a warning sticker? "EA gases are inflammable?" Thank God carp don't smoke!

It must be the flavour that was added to it since the bottle gave off excess gasses say the EA manufacturers. Not guilty, your honour, from the massed choirs of the flavour manufacturers. It was 1,000 to 1 strength, 100% pure when it left us, whatever that means.

They say it must have had something else added by someone other than themselves. Naughty, naughty.

Can't remember, says the supplier, who added the flavour to the EA. Did I buy direct from the manufacturers, or from the bloke up the road who mixes them . . . er, I mean resells the genuine article? The bloke up the road says it's not one of his flavours; there is a case of blind panic overtaking the supplier, he can't advise the executors of the will of the name of the true manufacturer. The poor sod is in the middle and all stitched up.

But what's this? Possibly a right load of bullshit. The general safety requirement to the supply of unsafe goods does not apply to the sale of secondhand goods, or third or fourth hand, come to think of it, and as the contents of the bottle of EA flavour have definitely passed through several pairs of hands it has to be secondhand, your honour.

Now before you manufacturers, remanufacturers (who?), bait dealers, suppliers or the bloke up the road breathe a sigh of relief, tell his honour the difference between what you call secondhand and actually buying secondhand from a junkshop or scrap yard? Rayners, Barnett & Fosters, and other manufacturers may well agree that some of the bait dealers and suppliers are junk and scrap dealers, definitely secondhand, but his honour, I think, might not let you off the hook. There's a joke there somewhere, I think!

Dead subtle, isn't it? Manufacturers, wholesalers, bait dealers, suppliers could be carrying the can for the poor guy's demise.

But it was the table that cut his head off. Who made the table? I don't think I'll get drawn into that side of the story. I know nothing about wood. Some say I know nothing about carp fishing, and this article could be proof of that.

Fortunately for the bait trade the chap, or should I say the deceased, had caught more than his fair share of carp, and carp anglers being carp anglers, the members of the syndicate that he fished with had put a contract out on him. The hit man shot him just before he took the top off the bottle.

TONY BASKEYFIELD



ROTHERHAM CARP BAIT SPECIALIST

DAVE PARKES FISHING TACKLE, 28 WESTGATE, ROTHERHAM, S. YORKS. TEL: (0709) 363085

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- ☆ GARDNER TACKLE (Beware of imitations)
- ☆ FOX BEDCHAIRS, LOW CHAIRS & SPARES
- ☆ CENTURY (Armalite)
- ☆ ET PRODUCTS
- ☆ TRI-CAST
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- ☆ A & J TACKLE
- ☆ SUNDRIDGE (Sylcast)
- ☆ DRENNAN
- ☆ BERKLEY
- ☆ STEADFAST
- ☆ ABU
- ☆ SHIMANO REELS
- ☆ MITCHELL
- ☆ BROWNING
- ☆ BOOKS
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Sack Clip		£1.38
Sack Extension Cord		£2.24
Weigh Sling (Std)		£4.83
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Boilie Bag (Std)		£3.68
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Opti Pouch		£1.99
Extra Strong Bivvy Pegs		£3.97
Bedchair Cover (Std)		£13.99
Bedchair Padded Mattress		£26.51
Bedchair K.M. Mattress		£29.96
New! Bedchair Elastic		£1.13
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Rig Tube 0.5mm		£0.68
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New! Boom Tube 3.0mm		£0.68
New! Butt Foam		£0.46
New! Deadbait Casting Clip (per 6)		£1.97
New! Boilie Hair Stops		£0.51
New! Rig Book		£1.40
New! Rig Foam		£0.98

TB PTFE Bobbins £3.95

10, 15 and 20 gms. Two bore sizes.

Feature a stem fitted with a Fuji eye. The rubber stem keeps the eye semi rigid stopping the line wedging between eye and aerial allowing free movement, and on the strike the eye flicks back every time never fouling the line.

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Made of shock resistant plastic. Ideal for economic and tidy Dacron, Hooklink, Mono, Shock Leader and Fly Leader dispensing. Very neat and saves on wasted line.

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2 Spool 2 1/2" Diameter 7/8" Deep	£3.70
2 Spool 2 1/2" Diameter 7/8" Deep	£4.50
2 Spool 3 1/2" Diameter 7/8" Deep	£4.95

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Bedchair Bag Deluxe (Fox)	£31.95
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Welly Wipe/Carry Bag (standard)	£5.95
Welly Wipe/Carry Bag (large) Fox	£6.95
Buzz Bar Optonic Pouch 12in.	£10.95
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Cobra 3 29mm	£15.95
Boilie Feeder Pouch	£3.95
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Sportex blanks have proved to be probably the most reliable Carp blanks in use today and are used by serious Carp anglers everywhere, all the blanks are 94% carbon which gives a high power to weight ratio. Rings are carefully aligned on the correct side of the blank for optimum performance. Handles have a Fuji deluxe fitting, 19" up from the bottom of the blank, rubber grips above and below FPS with butt grip. Rings fitted are Fuji single leg BSPHG with three leg BNHG 25 Butt ring. All whippings have a resin finish.

CA 3352 11' 2 lbs TC	overfit	Blank £49.56	Finished rod £84.95
CA 3352 11' 2 1/2 lb TC	overfit	£51.75	£86.95 *
CA 3652 12' 2 lb TC	overfit	£56.58	£91.95
CA 3653 12' 2 1/2 lb TC	overfit	£59.29	£96.95 *
CA 335/225 11' 2 1/2 lb TC (old CA 3301)	overfit	£69.58	£104.95

*Long range ringing.

New Conoflex Woven Kevlar

Tested now for two years. The lightest Carbon/Kevlar blanks on the market. Semi-fast tapers. In our opinion the finest available.

11' 1 1/2 lb TC	Blank £73.40	Finished rod £107.95
11' 2 1/2 lb TC	£76.86	£111.95
11' 2 1/2 lb TC	£80.15	£115.95
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12' 2 1/2 lb TC	£84.63	£119.95

New Exclusive 10' Carbon "Stalker"

Built on a 2 lb TC, through action blank ideal for stalking and fishing in enclosed swims from under the rod tip and up to 70 yds. Designed to have a soft tip for striking at short range to avoid snap outs and hook pulls, but enough power in the butt to stop fish heading towards snags and lilies etc. Built with a full cork handle, deluxe Fuji FPS 18mm, BNHG 25mm butt ring and seven spindle legs. Black whippings.

Part Built	Introductory offer
Built rod	£62.10
	£79.95

NB. Silicon carbide rings on all built rods, please add £18.50

GARDNER

Buzzer Bars (Black)	£2.45
2 Rod 8" Push On	£2.80
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BANK STICKS (Black)	£2.80
10"	£3.20
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30"	

BANK STICKS (Stainless)

10"	£3.80
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Rod Rests (Nylon Front)	£0.35
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Ariel Needle Holder (2 Rod)	£4.70
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Rollabait Bait Maker 14mm	£8.50
18mm	£6.50
8mm	£4.30

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Stringer Needle	£1.00
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Spare Ariel Ends	£1.75
New! Rod Pod	£13.45
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C5	£54.99
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C4	£48.99
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ML 3.5c	£47.50
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RIGS by KEVIN NASH

A chapter from "Advanced Rigs" by Kevin Nash, price £5.99

WHY DO WE NEED RIGS?

Dramatic growth

With the dramatic growth in the popularity of carp fishing the development of end tackle and bait presentation has gone hand in hand. Not so many years ago the freelining of bait for carp fishing was the standard approach. The hook was buried deeply within the bait for fear of the carp seeing it and the line hung limply between bait and angler. Even with the lightest of indicator possible there was a fear that the carp would drop the bait if the slightest resistance was felt. Compare that with the modern day set up, the hook fully exposed, 2oz ledger weight and very taut lines; it almost seems as if we are fishing for a completely different species.

Close study

The successful angler will now have to study closely the way in which his quarry feeds to ensure that he selects the right rig in any given situation. As you work your way through the book I hope my explanations and thoughts will help you make the right choice.

Feeding carp

So let's look at the way a carp picks its food up – they obviously have no hands but when you listen to the reasoning some anglers give for using a particular rig one would have thought they had! Carp will feed on the bottom or in the middle layers generally by one of two methods. The first and most common is by sucking in a mouthful of water in which a food item is encapsulated. These food items can be sucked in from as much as six inches away from the carp's mouth.

If there is anything suspicious about the items that have been drawn in with this mouthful of water they will be instantly ejected by blowing out. The force of this ejected jet of water has to be seen to be believed. It is not unusual for an ejected bait to travel anything up to nine inches! The second (and this usually occurs on heavily fished waters) is where carp treat almost every food item with suspicion. The carp coming upon a food item laying on the bottom will extend its mouth gingerly over it before sucking in; it is this feeding action which will cause anglers the most problems.

One of the most popular books of the last couple of years was a booklet on rigs by Kevin Nash. This booklet has now been enlarged and is due to be published at about the time we go to press. Kevin has kindly given us permission to use a couple of extracts from the book, and the first one is the first chapter in the book. Drawings are by Chris Turnbull. A further extract will appear in the next issue of Carpworld.

Surface carp

Surface feeding carp again will generally feed in two manners. Firstly, with half the mouth out of the water they will patrol along the surface sucking in any likely food items in their path. These are real suckers for a bait and very little finesse with the set up will be needed to catch them. But after that same carp has fallen foul of this feeding behaviour two or three times, its habits will very quickly change. The second feeding method will see the carp approaching the bait vertically from beneath, very often not touching the surface at all but sucking the item in from several inches below; it is in just the right position to see if anything untoward is afoot and this is where the more advanced methods will come into play.

Discipline

It should be possible, with the right discipline, to be just one step ahead of the carp's suspicious reactions to our set ups. It is the anglers who approach their carp in this manner who will be the

most successful, rather than the guy who goes straight in using the latest development in rig set up.

Unfortunately, we have seen this selfish approach on many of our carp waters. Instead of the carp and the angler slowly graduating together, a crash course in rig technology will often take place, with a particular water advancing through five or more years of development in just one season.

Successful carping

What part in the whole picture of successful carping will the rig play? A good rig will be no substitute for a poor angler – the basics of approach will always remain the same. Watercraft, fish location or just having that "sixth sense" cannot be replaced by the latest all-singing all-dancing rig. However, put a good going rig in the hands of a competent angler and the results can be absolutely devastating. The outcome of this can be very easily seen on the banks of your local water. Look at two chaps with equal ability of bait, location and positioning and one will often outshine the other by a great margin just on bait presentation alone. So pay attention to detail or you may well find yourself in the position of the also ran.

Development

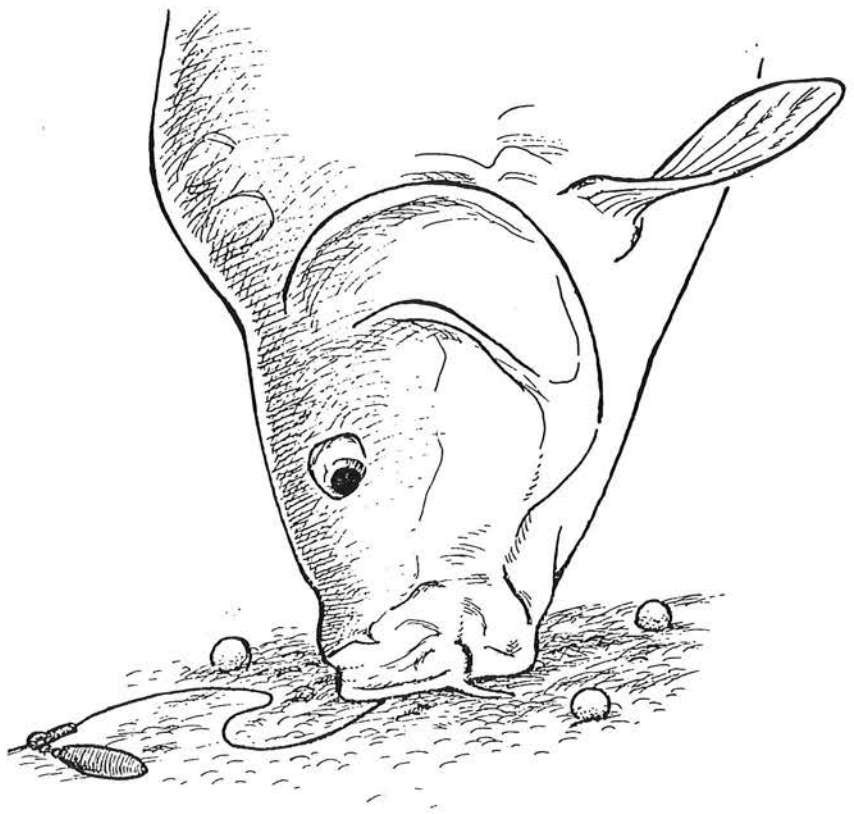
Let's have a look at how the development of the end tackle first began. Most of the first specialised carp baits used to be in some form of soft paste, which was usually rolled into large balls of sufficient weight to cast without any extra lead being added. These would be mounted in such a way that very little, or none, of the hook was exposed. Very soon other species of fish started to cash in on these very tempting carp baits, especially bream and tench which were able to whittle a large ball of paste down to nothing in next to no time at all. Then some forward thinking anglers decided to skin their baits by dropping them in boiling water to form an impenetrable surface to the bait. So the boilie was born. As time went on baits became smaller and harder in the ever present battle of deterring unwanted species from the bait; thus came about the first development of the end tackle.

Because the baits were now much smaller, they needed the assistance of a ledger weight to enable casting. And because the baits were now much harder, the hook that had previously been buried in the bait, could not now be easily pulled through the tough surface of the boilie. As a result the first hook exposed rigs were conceived. At first, small hooks were lightly side-hooked into the bait, enabling them to be pulled free easily on the strike. Some anglers then noticed that takes suddenly became faster as a carp began to hook itself. This then developed to much more of the hook being exposed and the hooks themselves grew larger. The next development was the use of larger leads and clipping up to create resistance against the taking fish, in order to ensure that it pricked itself and a run would develop.

The hair rig

Then came the most significant breakthrough of all – the brainchild of Lennie Middleton who, with Kevin Maddocks and Keith Gillings, developed the hair rig. Lennie's forward thinking removed the bait from the hook altogether; all that was left was a very light fine piece of nylon of about two inches in length between the hook and the bait. It was his intense study of carp feeding that led him to believe that it wasn't necessary to have the bait directly attached to the hook. Because of the carp's sucking and blowing action, the bait would be drawn in to the carp's mouth, followed by the hook. On ejection the bait would leave

the mouth first, leaving the hook momentarily behind the completely free so that it could easily prick the skin inside the carp's mouth.



The ultimate rig

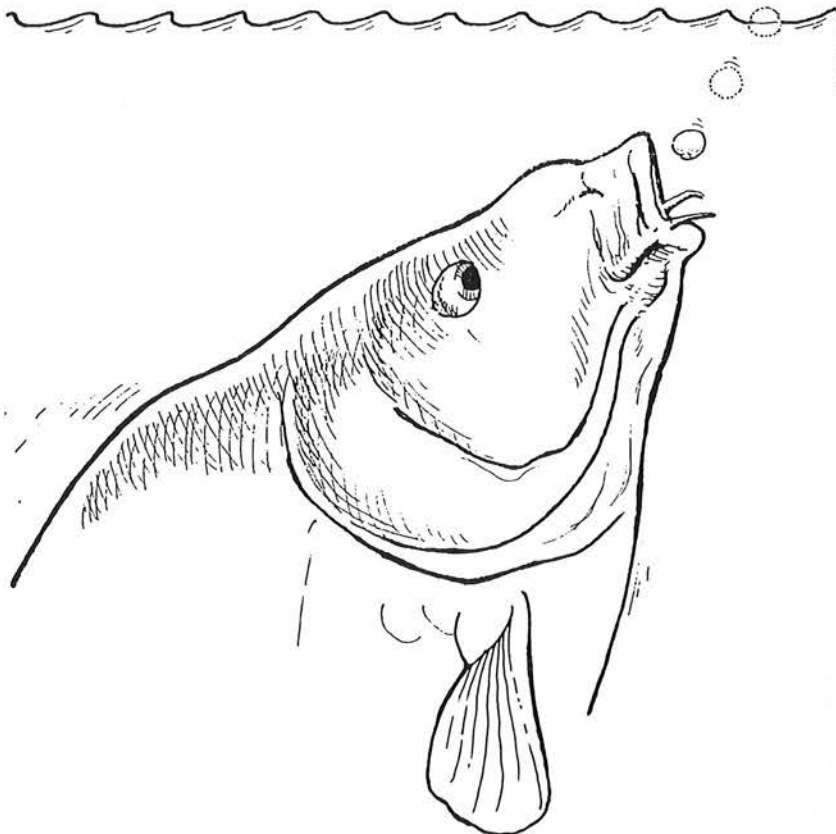
So this must be the ultimate; why should we need to go any further? To be honest many people actually believed this and to some extent it is probably fair to say that it is true, for there have been no major developments since the hair rig. Most good working set ups are just a development and a slight variation on this very successful theme.

Later in the book, I will describe all the different variations of the hair rig. It is then up to the reader to ensure that he makes the right selection to coincide with the current state of development on his own particular water. On hard fished waters with constant pressure, it is very important that we constantly assess the situation. At the extreme, we may find ourselves having to alter set ups two or three times a season as development progresses.

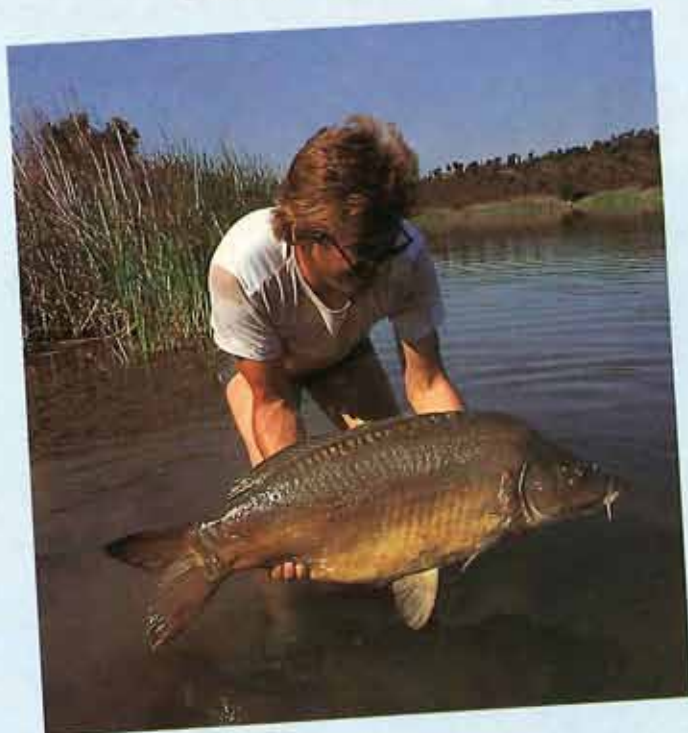
Life expectancy

So what is the life expectancy of any particular rig? Unfortunately there is no easy answer to this question. Obviously on popular waters things will go on in leaps and bounds, but on the lightly fished venues, one successful pattern could well last for many seasons. However, what you will notice, if you pay close attention to the hook holds of your quarry, is that as the rig loses its efficiency they will get poorer. This will often coincide with the carp coming adrift for no apparent reason, or a dramatic drop off in the number of expected takes.

So don't get lulled into a false sense of security for it is only the alert, thinking angler who will be consistently successful.



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THE 1988 ROD HUTCHINSON MAIL ORDER CATALOGUE

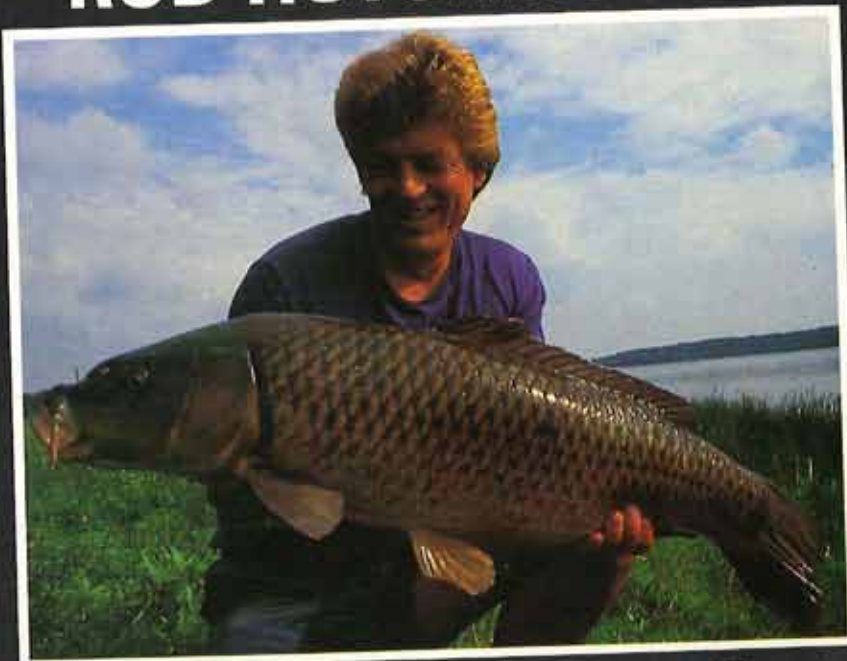
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ROD HUTCHINSON



1988 MAIL ORDER CATALOGUE

IT IS a sad fact of life that Spring Viraemia kills carp – and so do we, the caring, conscientious carp anglers whenever we take that nice double or twenty for a ride to our own syndicate water, or other similar favourite venue. For sure we all love the magnificent carp that has just graced our landing net, and we definitely wish it no harm; we are only trying to boost our water's own stocks when we transport the fish from its original home to our favourite venue. But harm the fish we most certainly do: not only do we risk the life of our prize catch, but we risk the lives of all the fish stocks within our favourite water.

So what exactly is Spring Viraemia? And how do we inadvertently risk killing our own beloved species? Well, Spring Viraemia is a viral disease which affects all members of the carp family, and at present there is **NO KNOWN CURE**. Carp are most vulnerable to the disease after a particularly harsh winter, which makes this year's outbreak all the more mysterious. The disease used to be called Infectious Dropsy, named after one of the symptoms, and there are two separate bacterial types.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAFF) rates the disease on their "Highly Notifiable Disease" list, and give all outbreaks top priority. This country has had only four previous outbreaks. In April 1975 the Government banned all illegal acts of transporting carp from the continent, because Spring Viraemia is more prevalent in the rest of Europe. As a result of the April 1975 Act, all transfers of carp in and around waters here now need a Section 30 Consent Form from the Water Authority governing the area into which the fish are being transported. Fish also need health certificates from the Water Authority governing the area from which the fish have been transported. Therefore individuals and angling clubs all need permission **BY LAW** to buy and sell, and transport fish.

Roach, being members of the carp family, can also become infected; therefore the movement of roach from one water to another as livebaits could inadvertently spread the disease.

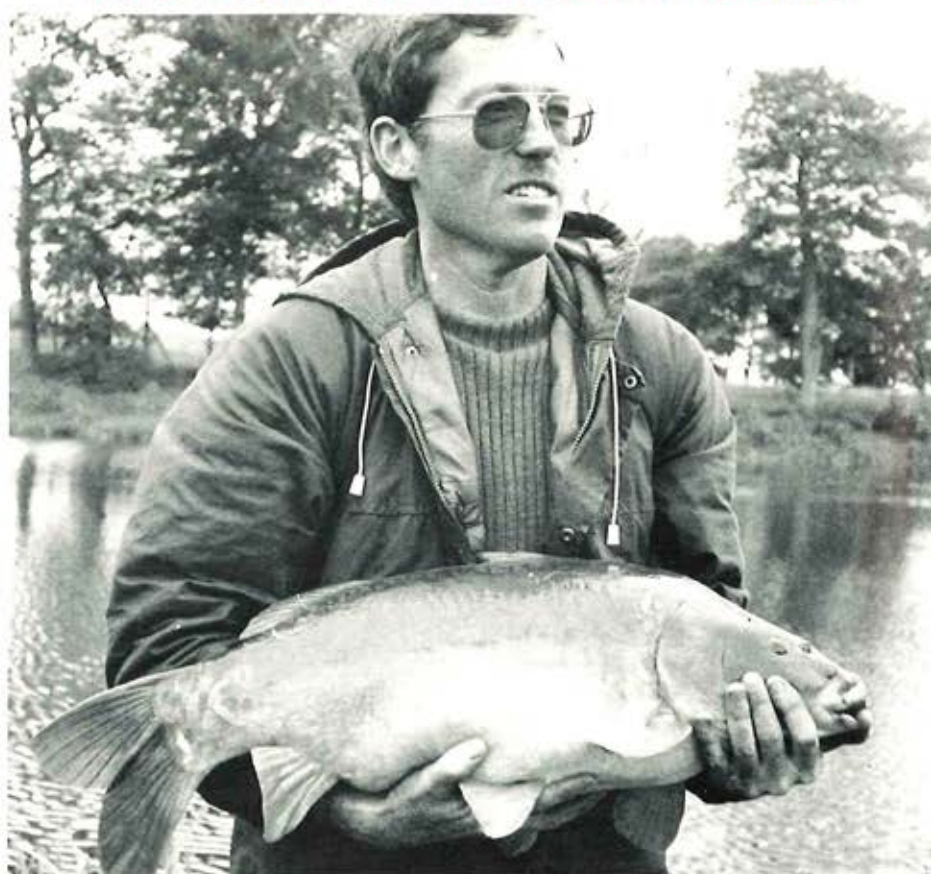
Carp carrying the disease become very lethargic and do not seem to have the presence of mind to defend themselves, nor to escape the attentions of passers-by as they would otherwise do. While they are in this state the carp will not feed, so they lose body weight, and the strength they need to fight disease. They can also become very bloated with internal body fluid: secondary infections then set in, usually attacking the liver and heart with fatal consequences.

When Spring Viraemia is confirmed in a water the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries will close that water down completely: they will also close down the source from which the fish came (if that is known) and therefore fish farmers' livelihoods can be ruined.

It is suspected, thought not confirmed, that the disease can be passed from one water to another on anglers' nets, clothing, or via travelling water birds. It is

SPRING VIRAEMIA

JOHN J. POOLER



therefore advisable to employ the use of disinfectant tanks in areas where outbreaks are reported. It is always better to be safe than sorry in cases like this.

Finally, and I cannot stress this point strongly enough, there is still too much illegal fish movement taking place. Leaving aside the morality and legality of this, if you care at all for the carp as a creature to fish for, for heaven's sake return all your catches back to the water from which you caught them, and stop this lunatic practice of moving fish from water to water. If it continues angling as we know it today will not survive into the next decade.

If you want big fish then buy them through the proper channels and insist that the Water Authority completes all the relevant checks for diseases – including Spring Viraemia. As conscientious carp anglers please also make sure that the members in your club or syndicate are not transporting carp into your water to boost the stocks, or improve the fishing: they may just be condemning your favourite carp venue to death.

The Author actually suffered the dreadful experience of seeing his favourite, thriving carp water killed off because of the "well-intentioned" introduction of fish from another water. His graphic account of the harrowing experience can be found in the Carp Society's magazine *Carp Fisher*, issue 11.

Carp Society Chairman Les Bamford says: "I've spoken to a number of authorities about Spring Viraemia and feel that everyone controlling a carp water should take every precaution possible to prevent the spread of the disease. At Redmire we've installed a tank of disinfectant. The liquid to use is FAM 30, which is an Iodine solution. Use it at the concentration of 20 mils per gallon of water, and insist that all nets, sacks, waders, wellies, etc. are given a thorough soaking before coming into contact with your water. It may be sufficient protection to thoroughly dry out any possibly contaminated nets, etc. in strong sunlight, as this will kill the infection, but we feel it would be stupid to run the risk of not installing a tank – then suffering a Spring Viraemia outbreak."

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The School Pool

Martin Herbertson

I HAD first walked around the banks of the School Pool more than five years before I ever fished there. I knew a few of the members from the days when I had fished Embley, and I used to visit them in the hope that I might see one of the pool's carp being caught. I was always disappointed though, and not once in those five years did I see anyone even hook a fish. Very occasionally someone would catch one, but never when I was there, and I had to be content with just watching the fish swimming by.

Sometimes I saw the pool's fish in the most unexpected places. One time I saw Jack Hargreaves on television catching perch from the jetty; that must have been some years ago, for the jetty is now no more than a few rotten piles sticking out of the water. Then, the year before I joined, Trevor Housby had pictures of the pool and one of its fish published in *Carp Fisher* 4. They were taken the year the pool weeded up - 1978, I think.

The club was exclusive; it took five years of trying before I managed to gain membership, and as soon as the following season opened I was on its banks with a rod in my hand. It was by no means the first time I had seen the place, but it felt different to stand there knowing that at last I could fish.

The place was a sight for sore eyes. Before me lay four acres of water, bustling with great big carp, and I had it all to myself; I wonder how many waters there are nowadays where you can be alone on June 16th. The pool was hidden away in a most delightful setting, shielded from the outside world by what had once been formal gardens but after decades of growth now resembled unkempt woodland. It was a picture with red and white flowering lilies in the margins and purple flowering rhododendrons fringing much of the unspoilt banks.

I ambled along the bankside path, every so often catching a fleeting glimpse of the pool where the bushes parted to reveal it. Every single swim looked appealing, but I didn't pause and continued wending my way along the path through the woods to the far end of the pool. There, a large weedbed of amphibious bistort grew across the mouth of a sheltered bay. I knew the carp would be there; after all, they had been there the year before and the year before that. As I approached the bay blackbirds emerged from the bushes ahead and scattered, obviously not used to visitors in their leafy world. Not wishing to have a similar effect on the carp, I laid my tackle at the side of the path and crept through the bushes for the last few yards to the water's edge.

The bay was surrounded by a tangle of rhododendrons and much of the bank was quite inaccessible, there being only two small gaps between the bushes from where it would be possible to cast a bait. Further back along the bank was a narrow overgrown path leading to a swim overlooking the bistort at the mouth of the bay, and from there I could see several carp cruising through channels in the weed.

By evening I had caught two carp from the bistort, the larger being a lovely yellow leather, although even that had been dwarfed by a fish which cruised past the back of the weedbed several times during the afternoon. All evening that long dark shape swam up and down at the back of the weed and as night fell I was sure that any moment one of the bobbins was going to rise up to the top of the needle and hover there as line was stripped from the spool. As I sat there next to the rods in the twilight, myriads of bats emerged from the woods and flew over the pool, occasionally skimming the water as they plucked an



The long dark shape from the back of the bistort.

insect from its surface. They were fascinating to watch, but the bobbins remained quite motionless and I soon fell into a deep slumber after another long day.

The bats were retreating to their roosts after a night on the wing and the first undertones of the dawn chorus were drifting through the woods when I awoke. The lake was shrouded in mist which hung in the inert morning air like a veil waiting to be opened by the sun when it rose above the trees to the east. I lay there shivering under the groundsheet which had not escaped the damp air, having been covered in a heavy dew. The first blackbird of the day scurried past and started scuffing the ground in its search for grubs. A moorhen

noded and clucked as it made its way through the bistort. Then the buzzer began to whine as one of the bobbins rose briskly to the top of the needle and fluttered there while line poured off the spool. The wet groundsheet was cast aside as I scrambled to my feet then picked up the rod, closed the bail arm and struck.

Somewhere beyond the bistort there was a splash and the fish began to take line as it headed up the margins to my left. Then the run stopped, everything went solid, and no amount of coaxing would move the fish. Reluctantly, I waded into the cold margins with the rod and landing net. The fish had found sanctuary in the middle of a patch of lilies and as I made my way

through the pads towards it there was a tug on the line. Once again the carp started taking line, this time as it headed for the island in the centre of the pool. The run had been going for twenty seconds or more when I began to worry that the fish might go around the island sixty yards away. Clamping my hand over the spool, I held on tight as the rod began to bend further and further down the butt section under the strain. Thankfully the carp was tiring and I could hear it roll on the surface as the bend eased out of the rod and at last I was able to gain some line. Grudgingly the fish conceded ground, making shorter and shorter runs, and I gained line inch by inch until eventually it was close enough to net.

The fish was a common in immaculate condition, not as large as the fish I had seen the previous evening, but well worth the effort and a most satisfying catch. I shall remember that run to the island for a long time to come.

I fished perhaps a dozen nights at the School Pool that season, catching a handful of carp for my efforts but never repeating the success of the first session, or seeing the big shape at the back of the bistort again. It seems a terrible thing to do to condense the rest of that season into just a few brief words, but the essence of the place was encapsulated in that first session. The catches wouldn't impress many people; they weren't meant to impress.

The following season started off with a mini-heatwave and when I finally

managed to get down to the School Pool in the first week of July the carp were sunning themselves in the shallow waters of the overgrown bay. As soon as I arrived I catapulted some floaters out into the bay, but the carp were far too busy sunning themselves to bother about feeding. There were perhaps two dozen carp in the bay, all of a size except one big dark shape that drifted around like a log, just below the surface. All day I watched the carp as they swam about in the bay, hoping that at some time they would weaken and start feeding on the groundbait. They didn't, but as dusk was falling a fish took a single floater on the edge of the bistort; my hookbait. I can still hardly believe it; there must have been fifty baits out there for it to choose from. I struck and the fish powered off through the bistort. Perhaps I should have let it carry on out the other side, but in the heat of the moment I piled on the pressure with the SS5 and, inevitably, the fish stopped and got bogged down in the weeds.

Bistort is a devilish thing to extract carp from and I felt sure the fish would be lost, but help was soon at hand in the shape of Rob Smith and Nigel Reynolds, a couple of long-time members. They had just arrived at the lake for a look round, and having seen my dilemma wasted no time coming over and offering their assistance. The fish was clearly still on the end of the line and every time I pulled a large tail would rise up out of the water twenty yards out from the bank; but it was well and truly stuck where it was. The only answer was to go in for it

and I began wading out with the rod while Rob followed behind with the landing net. The bay was shallow, the water only coming up to our shoulders even twenty yards out; I remembered seeing Alan Clark walk all around the pool, only going out of his depth at the opposite end by the dam. Once we reached the fish I put my hand down the line and began breaking the stems around which it had become tangled. The carp was just below the surface amid a tangle of stems and now and then I could feel it brush past my hand; a good fish by the feel of it.

Suddenly the line twanged free, the tail flapped on the surface and once again the fish was ploughing its way through the weeds. This time though I refused to give an inch of line and the fifteen pound Syl-cast cut through the stems as the fish surged and the rod plunged, until eventually the fish was beaten and lay on the surface ready for the waiting net. Wet and exhausted, we carried the long dark mirror back to the bank and weighed it in the fading light before gently returning it to the pool. I had to wait over a year for that moment, and I stood there in the cold evening air covered from head to toe in stinking black mud, savouring every second of it.

MARTIN HERBERTSON is one of the regular contributors to Carpworld. Read another tale from his talented pen in the next issue.

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A LOOK AT THE TRADE

PARTRIDGE of REDDITCH

“... you just know”

GREG FLETCHER



AFTER spending some time thinking about the format of the new magazine we decided that we should go for some material of a "different" nature. But then again everyone is after material with a difference – so what's new? Well what was new at the time we were thinking about features was an announcement that Partridge of Redditch were in the process of issuing a limited run of replicas of Dick Walker's rod, the one on which he caught Clarissa at Redmire Pool in 1952. Cane rods; that was new, the second time around, so Fletch and I arranged to descend on Alan Bramley for an afternoon to get to know more about cane rod making.

What do most of us know about the making of cane rods? For most of us the answer is "next to nothing". Yes, there are a handful of worthies in the carp world who fished in the cane era, who have not only fished with cane, but who also built rods with it in the fifties and sixties. But cane rods started to disappear in the sixties, and most of us who have taken up carp fishing since its disappearance haven't seen cause to mourn its passing: we have been assured that glass and carbon are far better rod making materials than cane and we're happy to go along with the quest for efficiency and the market trends. But the market trend suddenly seems to have accepted that the nostalgia for cane rods is not only a valid one, but one to be pandered to, which is why we are taking this closer look at the Partridge remnants of a dying craft.

This isn't an attempt to convert the users of highly efficient carbon rods to wood, but a look back at the redevelopment of a practise that still lives on despite the pressures on technological advances, and it's reassuring to know that there is still room for the past in the modern angling world.

Alan Bramley, head man at Partridge, hardly strikes you as being a high powered businessman. He has the slow smile and the careful use of words of a carp man who's found something big, but isn't letting on. He isn't a carp man, and he must be very busy because getting past his protective wall of loyal attendants isn't easy. But once you do make it to the inner sanctum you find there is an olde worlde courtesy about the man that goes some way to explaining his involvement with a rod making material of yesteryear.

The hook-making side of the Partridge empire has been well documented in the press so we'll not expand on the theme here. The firm was originally formed by Edwin Partridge in 1836 and has been making hooks since that date. The company was handed down from generation to generation in the Partridge family until Alan Bramley purchased a controlling interest in 1970. At that time Partridge's main activity was the making of fly hooks, and the first carp hook to be produced was a round bend forged hook in gilt, nickel and bronze.

Early in the 70s Alan Brown approached Partridge with a carp hook in mind. Samples were made to Alan's original specifications, but these weren't suitable as carp hooks and the pattern was eventually adapted as a streamer lure hook. The prototype was repatterned to a shorter shank on a thicker wire, alterations suggested by Jack Hilton, and in the mid-70s the Jack Hilton carp hook was made available to carp anglers. Ironically by the time the hook was issued Jack had given up carp fishing, but despite that apparent marketing



John Newton splitting the cane.

setback the hook is still Partridge's best selling line in their range of specialist hooks.

Alan Bramley was looking for new areas to explore at this time and quite accidentally came across some built cane rod making machinery and materials at Shakespeare, the latter firm having bought out the rod making company Allcocks of Redditch. After some laudable detective work Alan tracked down an ex cane rod making machine operator who was willing to work for him, and he set about making cane rods. These were mainly fly rods, but the range did include (and still does) a couple of cane carp rods. These are eleven foot rods in the 1½lb and 2½lb TC models.

There was a crisis early in the operation. Partridge ran out of bamboo and if it hadn't been for the generosity of Harold Sharpe of Aberdeen would not have been able to continue. More in hope than in expectation Alan rang up Harold Sharpe and asked if he could spare any cane. "How much do you want?" was the unexpected reply, a gesture Alan will never forget.

Alan has clearly made it his business to become something of an authority on split cane and is well versed in its history and origins. For the record the first split cane rod was probably made by Blackers of Stoke in 1850, and is credited to the great Thomas Aldred. Cane rods have come a long way since then, and while the quality of the actual cane is probably



John shaping a section of cane.



Colin Young displays a rod section glued and bound and ready for the oven.

similar to the cane that has always been used in the making of the best rods the strength of cane rods has been improved in other ways. By using modern glues and an up-to-date impregnation system the dependability and strength of the rod has been improved without any alteration in the action. The impregnation method used by Sharpe's of Aberdeen undoubtedly stiffened the actual action of their rods, but Alan claims that the Partridge method doesn't change the action.

The Partridge cane rod making activities are currently headed by craftsman Colin Young, who has three developing rod makers of a later generation working with him. John Newton produces the split cane from the raw material, while Derek Allsop and Andrew Deakin are involved in the glueing and finishing of the rod sections.

How is a cane rod made? Well it is still made from Tonkin cane, but this comes from China and not Japan. The bamboo poles are selected on the basis of the thickness of the cane and are imported and delivered in 12ft lengths. The poles are cut in half and the best cane is selected for use. The "best cane" is the darker brown wood, and once selected the lengths are stained at one end to show which way the wood is to be worked, then numbered. Wood from two different lengths is used in each rod section so that the knots can be staggered.

Once it has been split the cane is baked for threequarters of an hour at 350

degrees F; it's then split down further and the knots ground off the back of the wood on a grinding wheel. The treated split cane is then tapered to an accuracy of 1000 of an inch on a milling machine, then trimmed to the absolute accuracy of the preset tapers on the tapering bed. There are six sections in a length of rod building cane, which gives the hexagonal finish to cane rods. Each of the six inserts is machined to a triangular shape, with the base angles of the triangle being set at 61 degrees (not 60 degrees as you might expect). The extra degree is to make allowance for the thickness of the glue used in completion of each section.

The cane is reasonably straight at this stage and the split lengths go through to Colin Young and his assistants to be glued and wrapped. The wrapping is done with string and is simply to hold the six lengths of cane together while the

glue is setting. The completed rod section is then subjected to a further process of heat treatment. This is a difficult stage of the operation and Partridge are understandably guarded about just what the right heat is for this part of the finishing process. It is heated for two hours to allow the glue to harden, but the cane can still twist at this stage. Rectifying such a distortion is another trade secret, and one learnt from many years of experience in working with cane.

Next come the curing and impregnation stages. The sections are first soaked in a water tank for two days to remove the starch from the cane, then soaked in resin for a further six days to impregnate the cane. After this eight day immersion the rod sections are baked for eight hours at one hundred degrees, with a final heat treatment at 350 degrees for quarter of an hour.

By this time Colin finally has his rod making material to work with. The ferrules are fitted (the ferrule glue takes a further eight hours to set), the handle worked, and the rods sent to the remarkably adept Mavis, who dresses the rods (whips the rings and seals the whippings). Fletch has more than a passing interest in rods, particularly cane, and he was under the impression he knew all the wrinkles of rod whipping. He was a bit taken aback when confronted with the expertise and speed Mavis had acquired. I still don't understand how she finished each whipping, and it was a new one on Fletch but, true to form, we stayed there until he'd mastered it. The Partridge impregnation process makes varnishing an optional extra, so only selected rods are varnished, usually where this is a market requirement.

We went to Partridge because the firm had decided to issue the replicas of Walker's Clarissa rod, but we were mistaken in thinking that the Partridge rod making activity is a limited one. In fact the firm makes fifty different models of cane rod, 90% of the total output being for export to America and Japan. The carp rod making activity is a very minor part of the total, but a significant one from our point of view. It's perhaps also an expanding one as an increasing number of carp men "go traditional" and follow the lead of Yatesy, John Carver and others in showing a preference for cane rods rather than the modern rod making materials.

The Clarissa rod itself doesn't need much pushing. There was a limited run of 44, and at the time of writing this there are just three left unsold. There were only two but a customer from Holland has cancelled his order – because the rod didn't arrive in time for the start of the season!

For us watching the process of cane rod building for the first time was a slightly weird experience. For years we'd heard all the technical expressions connected with the craft – the Tonkin cane, splitting the cane, measuring the tapers, planing the wood down and so on. To see it all actually happening was like taking a step back in time, and a very refreshing step back at that. Make no mistake about it, cane rod making is one of the most highly skilled of crafts. When Fletch was quizzing Colin Young about the straightening of cane which had become distorted during heat treatment Colin wasn't able to fully explain the process involved. He informed us that the section would need warming, then straightening by hand.

"How warm should the cane be?" asked Greg.

Colin smiled.

"I can't tell you," he said. "When you've worked with cane as long as I have it's one of those things that you just know."

That's obviously the Partridge secret: they just know.



Above: The resin tank.

Below: Mavis dressing a finished rod.



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

From: Terry Emms
Production Director

To: Alan Bramley
Managing Director

7th July 1988

GREY SHADOW HOOKS

I have now finished testing the hooks with that special Niflor finish. It's the British idea developed for aerospace and motor components both for protection and dry lubrication.

1. As you asked, I did get all the points of the sample hooks chemically sharpened before applying the Niflor finish to give optimum sharpness.
2. The slippery (low-friction) coating which comes from the PTFE in the Niflor certainly helps the hook points penetrate fast.
3. Niflor appears to be a much harder coating than I had appreciated. We found the sharp points held their sharpness for a long time because of the minimal wear. This comes from the low-friction PTFE surface which is also very hard. (I am glad you talked with the razor blade people!)
4. The corrosion resistance of the Niflor coating is definitely much better than the more standard bronze or black. Also when checking under a microscope the Niflor is absolutely even, not even a slight build-up on the point.
5. As you know, I didn't like the grey finish, but most flyfishermen who have seen the hooks think it is good as it makes the hooks unobtrusive.

Which hooks do you want me to make with the Niflor - Grey Shadow finish? How and when will we launch them?

Terry

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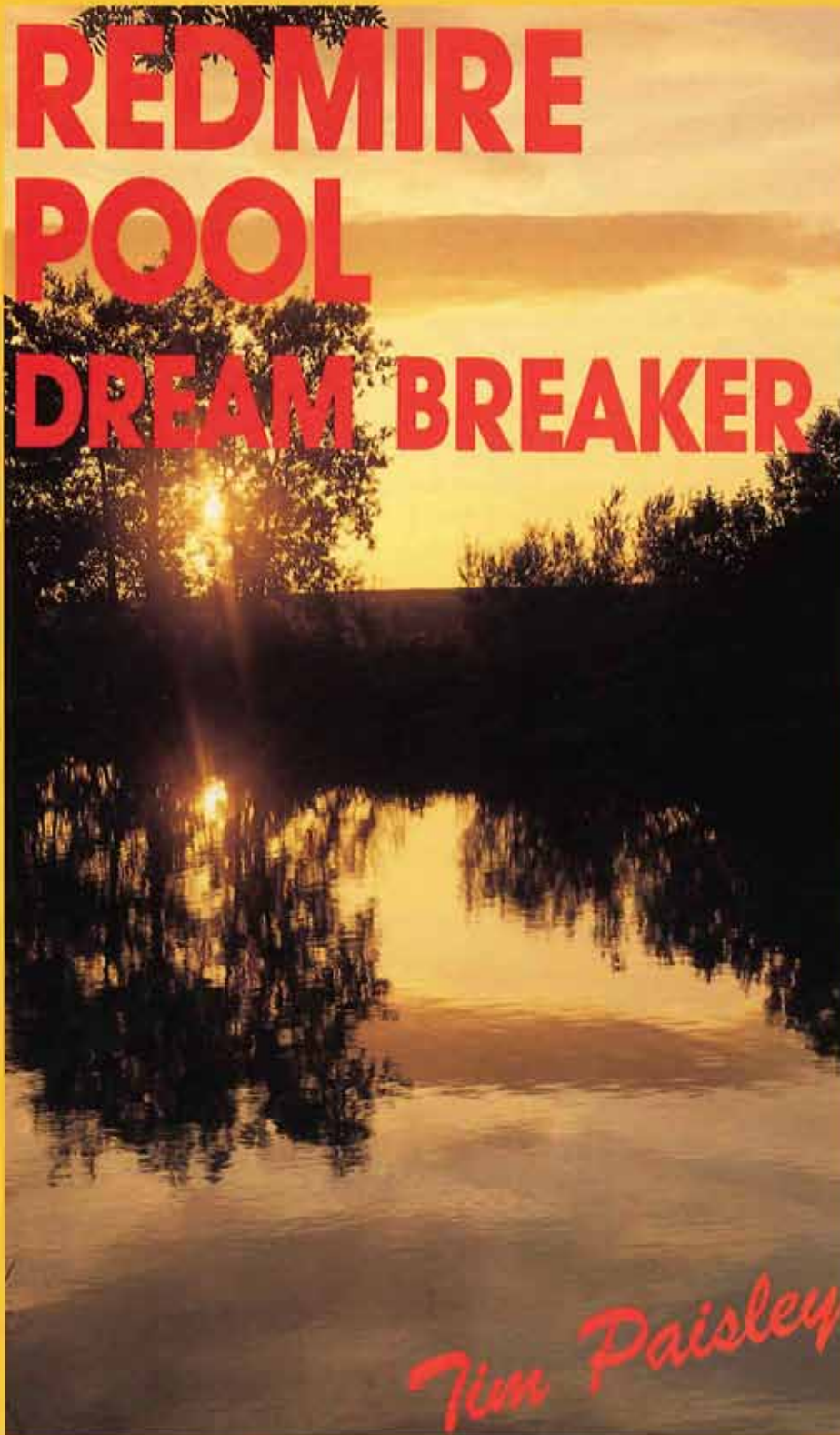
Alan

10.7.1988

As you will gather - this is an advertisement. You can get your test pack of 100 hooks - 10 of each size of each of the two ranges - for £10 from Partridge of Redditch, Redditch, B97 4JE (0527 43555).

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REDMIRE POOL DREAM BREAKER



Jim Paisley

I THINK Redmire has always meant the same to me as it has meant to most other people. Walker's great fish, Hilton's "Quest for Carp", Yatesy's big common, followed by the extraordinary successes of Rod Hutchinson and Kevin Clifford. The further you are away from Redmire, and all its trappings, the greater its mystery and magic: I always knew that and for that reason I never wanted to fish it. I wanted it to remain a distant, mysterious, indistinct dream water: I get very involved with waters and didn't want the complication of an infatuation with Redmire, or the bursting of a dream bubble through not catching, skintling myself to go there, it becoming just another water that I'd got to

catch from. So although I've always travelled a great deal for my carp fishing, Redmire as a water to fish never entered my plans at all. I liked the distant dream. Then, through no apparent fault of my own I got involved with the place. Redmire rather came to me.

In the summer of '84 two events occurred that were unconnected other than that they centred on Redmire. "Redmire Pool" by Kevin Clifford and Len Arbery was published, and for the first time ever Redmire came on the open market for bids for the fishing rights. The Syndicate which had been started by Jack Hilton in 1968, and which had run the water under the successive leaderships of Jack himself, Tom

Mintram and finally John Carver, was not being offered automatic renewal of the lease. If they wanted to keep the water they would have to pay the market rate to fish there.

To consider the full picture we have to go back a bit, because life hadn't always run smoothly under the rule of the syndicate. Jack Hilton had been an accepted leader, and while there had been the inevitable bit of friction while he was leader, it had been no greater than the occasional ruffling of feathers that men always seem to cause in each other. But Tom Mintram's leadership had not received the total acceptance that Jack's did, and open revolt had eventually flared when Tom decided to net the water and remove some of the smaller fish. The difference of opinion over some of Tom's leadership policies finally led to a showdown whereby five so-called rebels tried to gain control of the water. They almost succeeded, but eventually lost out, and lost their syndicate places as a result. It must be said that feelings ran high on both sides, and when Len Arbery and Kevin Clifford had their book published by Beekay in the summer of '84, they wrote a chapter giving their side of the so-called takeover. In giving their side of the story Kevin and Len were critical of Tom's leadership: in addition, Kevin Maddocks in his long chapter in the book, was critical of the way Redmire was run during the season that he fished the water.

Through all these comings and goings, I was a distant, half-interested onlooker with a slight personal involvement in terms of knowing at least some of the people involved. Kevin Clifford I'd known for a long time and would consider a friend, then and now; I'm sure I must have met Len Arbery, but I don't think we were more than nodding acquaintances; Clive and Malcolm I would consider to be friendly acquaintances, although I had had the odd ruck with Clive in the course of my Carp Society dealings with him. They were four of the five "rebels", the fifth being Ron Felton, whom I've never met.

The incumbent Redmire syndicate I didn't know at all at that time, and in all honesty I can't claim that I had any great admiration for them. Some time earlier I'd written a piece for Coarse Angler defending Chris Yates's record fish against an apparent attempt to throw doubt on its validity by someone whose name doesn't appear in this article. For reasons only they could ever hope to understand the then Redmire committee of John Carver, Tom Mintram, Barry Mills and Dave Short somehow interpreted my piece for the defence as an attack on them, and fired off some heavy artillery in the pages of Coarse Angler to put me in my place.

I mention that because it came as something of a surprise to me to receive a message via Bob Morris in the August of '84 that the Redmire committee, as named above, wanted me to conduct an interview with them at Redmire Pool in which they would put their side of the one-sided arguments that had appeared in "Redmire Pool" criticising the Redmire leadership at the time of the takeover and the time that

Kevin Maddocks fished the water. The interview was destined for *Carp Fisher* magazine, of which I was/am editor, and the Society committee was in full agreement that such an interview should take place, considering it would be something of a "scoop" for *Carp Fisher* and the Society.

I rang Tom Mintram(?) and arranged to visit the water on the 10th September to put the interview on tape, an event which duly occurred. My memories of the interview itself are slightly hazy now. I know I was to meet John Carver and Barry Mills in a car park in Ross, and managed to get the wrong one! When you are going to Redmire, for whatever reason, you try to do things right; you don't make cock-ups like that. We had breakfast in Ross then travelled to the water. Everyone talks about standing on the Dam Wall for the first time when they go to Redmire, and what their feelings are at that moment. For me the "moment" was earlier than that; it was coasting down the hill towards the Dam. Although the scene itself had changed a bit it was like a piece of history emerging from a history book. THAT picture of the view across to the willows from the corner of the Dam emerged from the framing of an old photograph and became part of the whole Redmire scenario. It was a strange, and very brief dislocation of time, then it was gone and Redmire past escaped me entirely until a brief shared moment with Jim Hindle at dusk.

The balance of the introductions were made in the car park: I could not believe how close the car park was to the water. How on earth could you be expected to catch those nervous Redmire carp with cars parked on the bank and car doors and car boots slamming every few hours! The thought was an irrelevance; I was there to tape an awkward interview, not to assess the chances of catching.

John was fishing the Stumps Swim, Barry the 35 (from memory), and Jim Hindle definitely the Willow. I know that because the interview took place there and poor old Jim not only had his chances of catching ruined, but he dropped for making tea and coffee every half hour or so.

The interview took place; it was complicated because there were four points of view to accommodate on the tape, sundry carp world irrelevances were dragged in and thrown out; a few irrelevances made it onto tape and were rejected at the transcript stage, but to cut a long story not a great deal shorter, the Willow Pitch part of the interview finished mid-afternoon on the 10th September 1984. It was due for publication in the November issue of *Carp Fisher*. The reasons for it not appearing there were complicated – and messy.

I took the tape back to Sheffield; spent a day and a half taking it off the tape and putting it onto paper, then took the tape and the transcript across to Kev Clifford's. I left it all with him while I fished a local water (under an assumed name with a fourth rod fishing a marker). I missed a bit. After I'd transcribed the interview I made three copies of it, one for Kevin and Len, one for Kevin Maddocks, one for chairman Derek Stritton and one for magazine pro-



From left to right: Barrie Mills, Dave Short, Tom Mintram, John Carver.

ducer Dave Watson. We're in mid-September.

Now it's got to be said that the Redmire interview is not particularly complimentary to the five so-called rebels or Kevin Maddocks; but on the other hand "Redmire Pool" wasn't particularly complimentary about the Redmire management. But it has also got to be said that considering the nature of the contents of the interview negotiations towards an agreed format for *Carp Fisher* didn't go at all badly. In fact they went very well. It was agreed that the three "Redmire Pool" authors would have the right of reply in *Carp Fisher*. Negotiations with Kev Clifford were concluded; as were those with Kevin Maddocks. Derek Stritton felt that we should carry all the interview in the magazine; I felt that it should be pruned slightly, which it was. To me it was no big deal. I tried putting myself on the receiving end and felt there was nothing in the text that I would feel too strongly about. Obviously there was going to be some disagreement on facts, and opinions are always at variance, but for the most part it was grown men sounding off like hurt kids – which we can all do when we are offended.

The background to all this was that Redmire was up for grabs – and what I didn't know at the time was that Clive Diedrich was the first in line to grab it,

supported by Kevin Clifford, Len Arbery, Malcolm Winkworth and one other. Apparently Clive felt that the publication of the interview would interfere with his chances of getting hold of Redmire, and set about having it not published in his own inimitable manner. He threatened to smash my face in if it appeared in print! I told Clive I didn't think a threat of violence a valid reason for withdrawing the interview, and referred him to Chairman Derek – who was about to retire as chairman and could probably have done without all the late hassle he got over the interview.

The next few days were very heavy, and ultimately the interview wasn't published. We were threatened with an injunction stopping publication of *Carp Fisher* if we went ahead with the interview. In all honesty we thought there was little or no chance of an injunction being successful, but the Society commits a high percentage of its income to the publication of *Carp Fisher*, and producing a magazine that ultimately couldn't be distributed to members, and sold, would have been disastrous. I still don't know exactly what pressures were brought to bear on this issue, but I do know that people who had too strong a vested interest, and/or have a track record for displaying lack of judgement, were listened to, or made their voices heard, in the interests of making sure that Clive Diedrich got his way, both

in terms of the interview not being published and in obtaining Redmire Pool.

If that doesn't make pretty reading this next paragraph certainly doesn't. The interview was suppressed. I could not believe that the Society had allowed itself to be manoeuvred into going along with the forces of darkness, that the "undemocratic arguments", which actually bordered on coercion, were listened to. Derek Stritton was retiring as Chairman in the November. I was Secretary of the Society at the time, as well as editor, and I felt I'd no alternative but to resign. I really couldn't believe the pettiness and lack of principle displayed over the Redmire interview issue.

For better or worse Clive Diedrich had control of Redmire. The syndicate which controlled it was paying under £4,000 for the lease, which was still a lot of money for a three acre water. Only ten people were allowed to fish the water in the course of the season and a maximum of three (four in certain circumstances) were permitted to be on the water at any one time. The price per head to fish Redmire was £375 in the last syndicate year, and some of the members would do well to total two weeks fishing during the course of the season. It was not cheap fishing, and while it is easy in retrospect to say that the syndicate should have made a determined effort to hold onto the water, it was a situation in which money counted. The successful bid was for a five year lease at £13,000 per annum, that sum being index linked to make allowance for market fluctuations.

The basis on which Redmire was leased never made any sense at all; the rental was insupportable. To those who only know of the man from a distance Clive may come across as an out-and-out villain. It is a wrong impression, in that if he is one, he doesn't know he is. While his tactics in winning Redmire might have been questionable, I don't think his intentions were. He must have thought that the bait business he was concerned with could treat Redmire as a business expense. When he gave an interview on the Redmire Dam explaining that the fishing of the water would be limited to those he felt deserved to go to Redmire, he probably believed what he said at the time. The big problem was that Richworth was by no means as stable as it would have had to have been to sponsor Redmire in that way. It must have soon become clear, even to Clive, that his original concept was insupportable and that the water would have to become a more direct source of income than merely promoting trade through being a Richworth asset. By first renewal raising the money for the rent appeared to be a problem, because it was only paid three days before the start of the season, weeks after it was due. If Redmire was to be considered a legitimate business expense it was going to have to start paying its way more realistically.

Ironically, I can't help feeling that the penny really dropped about the commercial value of Redmire at a Carp Society Conference. A week at Redmire was donated as one of the lots in the Auction at the 1985 November Conference: it raised

£500. A similar prize was donated to the BCSG/CAA Conference the following spring. It was bought for over £700. I would think that Clive still had a battle with himself about exploiting the famous water to the extent that he eventually did, but in the event practicalities must have won out and the Rent-a-Week Scheme was born. I'm sure it was unavoidable at that stage; the original basis on which the water was leased just was not a viable financial proposition. Richworth did not have a strong enough financial base to throw away £13,000 per year on the control of a prestige carp water. As for Clive personally being able to pay that sort of sum . . . well, what sort of salary would he have to be earning to sustain the philanthropic gesture that the first year and a bit of the Redmire lease represented?

Accepting that the original concept of giving the fishing at Redmire away to a few deserving friends wouldn't work, what alternative did Clive have? He either gave the water up, or he rented the fishing out. He advertised the fishing at £100 per week, per person for four anglers per week. The lease said three anglers per week on the water, which anyone who has been to Redmire will tell you is very a sensible restriction. I couldn't fish the water SERIOUSLY with two other anglers there. The pool is a small three acres, small in the sense that it is a narrow water so you are always close to the fish. I can understand why there was friction in the past with three anglers on the water. It is difficult enough for one angler to be quiet enough to fish Redmire properly; three would have my nerve ends jangling. Clive was bitter about the fact that outside intervention resulted in the Rent-a-Week four being reduced to three: well!

In Angling Times Clive recently admitted to takings of £37,000 from the Redmire Scheme: unofficial police sources put the figure at in excess of £50,000. One rental has been paid since the scheme was advertised; Richworth (now Streamselect) confirm that the scheme was Clive's, and not Richworth's, and the long suffering Bob Baker has in fact paid back a great many of the anglers who made their cheques payable to Richworth. Again in the Angling Times Interview Clive claims he has personally had £600 out of the scheme. The police are investigating, but the sums don't add up.

A number of us expressed concern about Redmire during the course of the last three years or so. The concern was based on an accumulation of minuses centring on Clive himself, and the concept of the Rent-a-Week scheme. There was concern that fish would be moved – and in fact Clive wanted to carry out the very thing he had been so bitter about in the seventies – a netting. There was concern because it would be difficult to exercise any sort of control over the degree of responsibility of the anglers going to fish the water. Concern that precisely what did eventually happen would happen. If an enterprise that is struggling suddenly finds an outside source of income, that income is likely to be looked on as a stop-gap, an injection of capital used for riding the storm. What seems like a lot of money to us on the outside looking in when assessed in individual terms can quickly be swallowed up in an overdraft which runs into 6 figures. That was the concern. There was always going to be a massive amount of money paid in as a result of the Rent-a-Week scheme – because people want to fish Redmire – but would the money be



Derek Stritton: he could have done without the Interview aggro . . .

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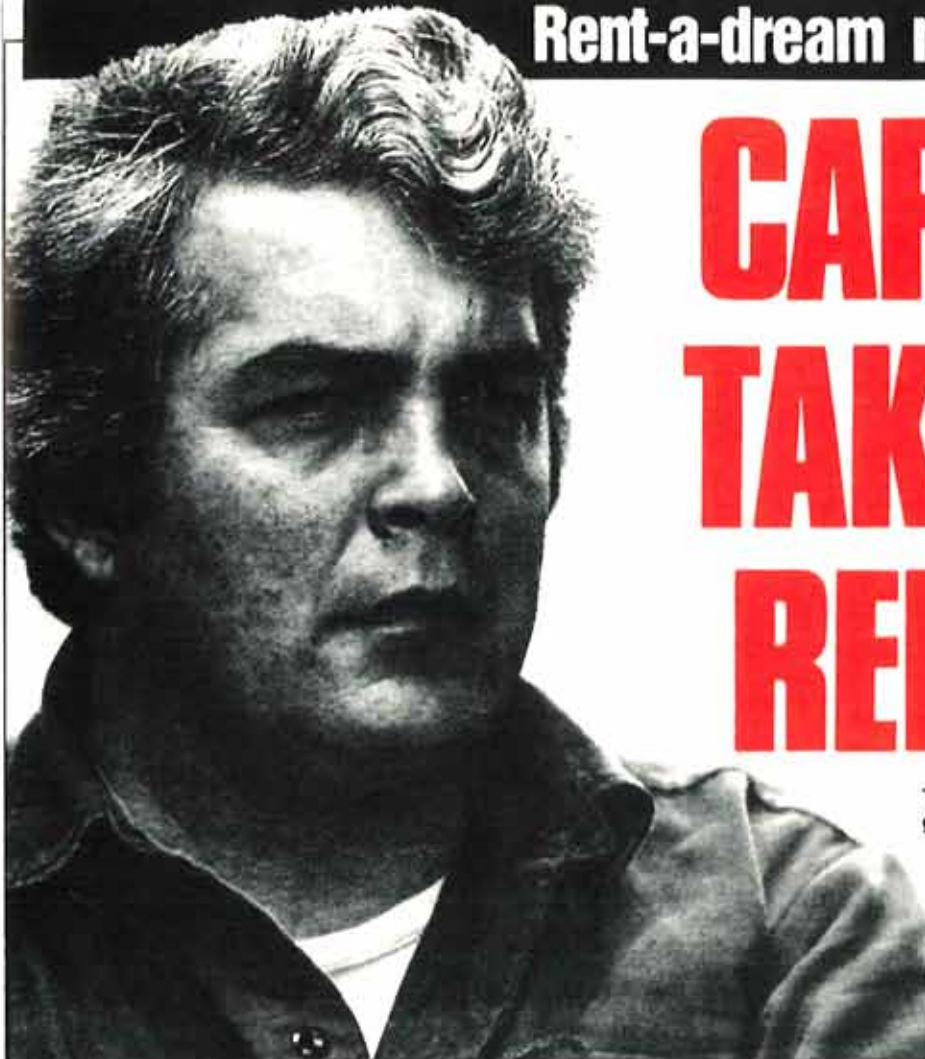
Wednesday, June 1, 1988 No. 1824

WORLD

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EXCLUSIVE

Rent-a-dream man loses fishery



CARP MEN TAKE OVER REDMIRE!

THIS is the face of a man who's seen his great Redmire dream turn into a nightmare.

Clive Diedrich, the man behind the controversial Rent-A-Week-At-Redmire scheme, has lost control of the fishery made famous by Dick Walker and his record-breaking carp.

Now the Carp Society have stepped in to buy the fishing rights of Redmire Pool in a last-ditch bid to give anglers, who've paid out sums of £100 through the scheme, a chance to fish the lake.

Full story on pages two and three.

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put into a separate fund and accounted for accordingly? There is still a great deal of mystery surrounding the whys and wherefores of the monies paid in and their actual fate. Clive claims he has had £600; he admits that at least £37,000 was paid in; we know that some has been paid back; we know that some anglers have fished Redmire. But how near are the books to balancing? We haven't a clue, but what we do know is that anglers received dates to fish the water for the 1988/89 and the 1989/90 seasons. In addition a great many received no dates. In the light of all this it is

very difficult to understand why an advert appeared in Angling Times in the spring of 1988 advertising the fishing at Redmire Pool. Perhaps enough money had already been paid back to make some places available for the two seasons mentioned above . . .

IN THE NEXT ISSUE: How the Carp Society gained control – and revived the dreams of heartbroken carpmen.



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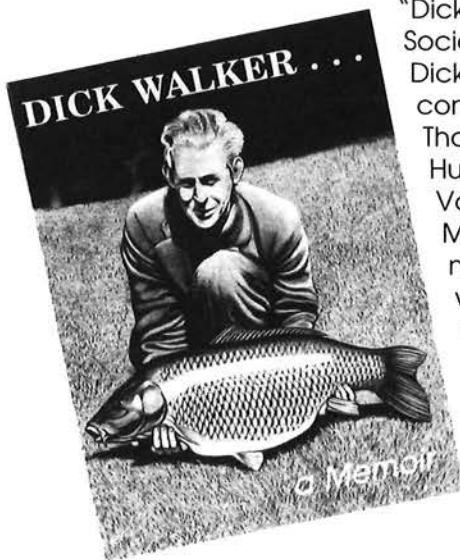


Redmire and The Carp Society

As many of you will already know, in May the Society secured a lease for the fishing rights at Redmire, the lease extending to the control of two waters on the estate, the famous Redmire Pool, and Little Redmire Pool, (an as yet undeveloped pond just down the valley from the main lake.)

Most of you will also know that as a result of an ill-fated Clive Deidrich scheme a great many anglers seem likely to lose upwards of £100, and their chance to fish the water. Although the fishing of the two waters will, of necessity, be for Society members only, the Society does feel some responsibility for those carp men who have been let down by Clive Deidrich's failure to renew the Redmire Lease. Provided the Redmire Fund generates enough support, every fourth week will be allocated to these disappointed anglers on the basis of three and four day sessions, at no additional charge. We also hope that over the years of the lease the fund will build up to a level that will enable us to control the fishing at Redmire indefinitely. We are already receiving generous support from the trade and the Society membership for this Fund; all monies donated to the Redmire Fund will be used solely for the development, maintenance and leasing of the Redmire Pools.

All donations to the Society address and payable to "Redmire Fund"



"Dick Walker . . . a Memoir" was published by the Carp Society as a permanent souvenir of the Conference held in Dick's honour at Dunstable on the 4th of June. The Memoir contains written contributions by Colin Willcock, Jack Thorndike, Chris Yates, Pat Russell, Chris Ball, Rod Hutchinson, Jim Gibbinson, Colin Dyson, Martin James, Valerie and Ian Howcroft, Fred J. Taylor, Fred Buller, Maurice Ingham and Tim Paisley. In addition there are numerous pictures of Dick and his friends, many of which have not been published before, and the volume has a brilliant Brian Naylor drawing in pastels reproduced on the cloth board front cover. There was a limited print run of this lovely collector's item, and there will be no reprint. Please send a minimum donation of £5.50, including p&p to secure your copy to:

**The Carp Society, Publications Department,
95 Main Street, North Anston, Sheffield S31 7BE**

If you require further details of the Society,
please send an 18p stamp for our 20-page information booklet

The Carp Society, 33 Covert Road, Hainault, Ilford, Essex

VIC CRANFIELD'S CARP SOCIETY COLUMN



Specialist Organisations

WE WILL make a page of Carpworld available in each issue to any specialist organisation which caters for carp anglers – in whole or in part. Material is welcomed from the Carp Anglers Association, the British Carp Study Group, The Carp Society and the National Association of Specialist Anglers. There will be no censorship of material, other than in the interests of avoiding legal actions, although accuracy would be appreciated when figures are being discussed for conference attendances and group memberships. The free page will include any advertising material the organisation concerned wishes to submit: extra advertising space will be charged at an agreed rate. Photographs are preferred as prints.

CARP SOCIETY REDMIRE POOL

SINCE Vic Cranfield submitted his copy the Carp Society has acquired the fishing rights for Redmire Pool, a coup which will be covered in some detail in the next issue of Carpworld. The fishing of Redmire is for Society members only, but as you will see from the advert opposite the Society is generously making provision for those anglers who were unable to fish the water under the Clive Deidrich Scheme (and look to be losing the money they paid to Clive), to fish the water.

NORTHERN CARP CONFERENCE

THE Carp Society is holding a Winter Conference at Doncaster on 6th November 1988. Full details of this event will appear in the Society's publications, and in the next issue of Carpworld. This event will be a very attractive one, so keep your eyes open for further information.

THE editor of Carpworld must be as mad as a snake! Why else would he ask me to contribute to the mag? Asking for one article is crazy, but asking me to write a regular column shows that Bill was right when he told me in strictest confidence, (and you know me, or you soon will, I wouldn't breathe a word to a living soul) that Tim is fast approaching complete senile dementia, and that he has given up trying to make sense of him and just lets him meander on, and says the best way to treat him is as you would an aged relative!

To be honest when the editor? (sic) asked me to write for Carpworld, I must admit I was flattered, and felt privileged. I felt that I had at last "come of age" as a writer. I should have known better; while at Tim's the other week I was thumbing through a copy of Carp Fisher, when a piece of paper fell out. On it were 45 names; 44 were crossed out!! Yes, you've guessed it, mine was the last one, the other 44 weren't as gullible as me, and had a lot more sense, or more important things to do like darning socks or counting the spots on a ladybird!

For those of you, and there must be millions (53 to be precise; that's the population of the country, isn't it?) that haven't heard of me, let me introduce myself – my name is Vic Cranfield, and I have the dubious honour of being Membership Secretary of the Carp Society. If you haven't heard of the Society you're about to get your eyes bent.

The Carp Society was formed in May 1981, because a lot of carpmen had become disillusioned with the other carp organisations, and felt there was room, and a need, for another carp organisation, that would be run for carp fishers, by carp fishers. So the Society was born.

The Carp Society is a democracy run by a committee elected by the members, for the members. We are a non profit making organisation; if there are any surplus monies, they go into the Water Fund, which was set up at the outset of the Society so that in time we would have a water of our own. That time has arrived, because the Society now has its first water in Bedfordshire, and this is just the start. We publish yearly accounts, and our books are there for anyone to see. We are registered for VAT, and every year our books are audited by independent auditors.

We publish four newsletters a year called Cyprinews; these are like small magazines in their own right. Cyprinews is

the news and current affairs vehicle of the Society and is available free to members ONLY. We also publish twice yearly by far the best carp fishing magazine in the world today. Called Carp Fisher, it is free to members and on sale to the general public. This magazine is sought after, it invariably sells out, so to guarantee your copy it is best to join.

We have at least four fish-ins a year, plus two junior fish-ins and at least one adult-only weekend where the emphasis is on socialising more than fishing, hence the venue is usually a pub or hotel. The above are open to members only. We have 30 separate regions around the country, and hold a minimum of two meetings a year in each region (some regions hold as many as six). These meetings are usually held between November and June and usually consist of slide shows, talks, question and answer panels, etc. etc, and are supported by tackle and bait stands. We hold two major conferences each year – one in Dunstable

Since writing this column, Vic has been appointed as the first full-time paid administrator of the Carp Society, which is an indication of the growing strength of the organisation.

in the late spring, the other one moves around the regions, and is held in late autumn. All of our meetings are open to members and non members alike. I think the Society has done away with the "clique" syndrome, our members seem to talk to anyone ('ello sailor). We are affiliated to NASA and the NFA and ACA, and have been since the start, because the Society cares about fish, fishermen and their environment.

Our junior membership is building nicely; the membership as a whole is growing so fast it's almost frightening, and not just here but abroad as well. We now have members in 13 different countries, and again on the increase. I think Germany is going to make a big impact on us this year. If you feel this could be the organisation for you, and you would like to join or know more about the Carp Society, write to me at the Society address, for our comprehensive publicity brochure enclosing a large stamped addressed envelope (C5 size): The Carp Society, 33 Covert Road, Hainault, Ilford, Essex IG6 3AZ. I look forward to hearing from you.

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ENCOUNTERS, OBSERVATIONS & FAILURES

CHRIS
SHELLEY

I'D BEEN perched in the branches of this particular tree for perhaps half an hour when I spotted the first fish emerge from the snags down to my right, a fish of perhaps 15lb or so. It swam across the front of the swim in about two feet of water and about a rod length out from the bank. There was no tackle in the water as of yet. Things were beginning to look promising. Still precariously perched in the tree, I threw, one at a time, six boilies, all different in size and shape, into the water where the carp had just passed by. After roughly five minutes a group of three carp emerged from the snags, moving along the same line as the previous fish. All three were larger fish, the biggest of the group going to perhaps 25lb. They moved slowly across the open water, unaware of my presence; occasionally one would stop and suck at something or other on the lake bed, then eject it again. There was a brilliant flash of gold as the largest fish rolled onto its side. The rays of the midday sun and the golden scales met in a momentary crescendo of colour. The fish, obviously making the best possible use of the taste receptors that form part of its outer skin, to detect morsels of food. The smaller fish of the group approached one of my baits, tilted slightly, taking one bait into its protractable lips, levelled up then swam confidently away, passing the bait back into its throat teeth in the process. The three carp meandered away to my left. Right then, quickly down the tree, two hookbaits, one balanced an inch off bottom, one three inches off bottom, were cast into the area just vacated by the fish after quickly checking that no more fish were in the swim (which would be spooked by the heavy self hooking lead rigs landing on top of them). After the

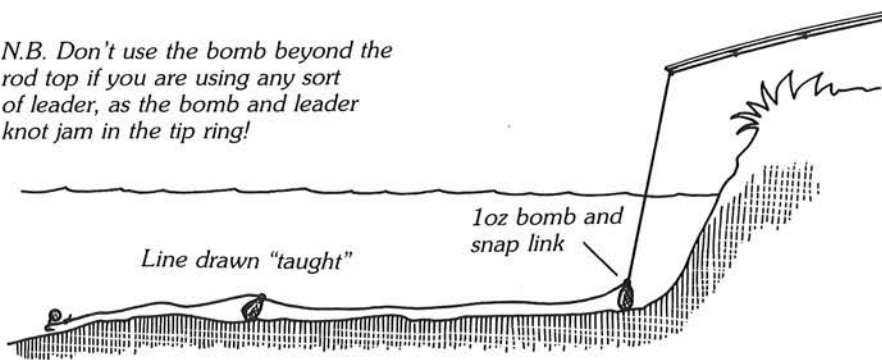
lines, 15lb Sylcast, were carefully sunk, bobbins fixed, buzzers turned on and bale arms opened, it was back up the tree. Five minutes passed by, the afternoon sun still shone brightly; two fish only just emerged from the same snags down to my right, then they stopped in their tracks, pectorals fanning annoyingly. After approximately 10 seconds of deliberation one fish turned 90 degrees to its right and made a wide detour around my swim via deeper water: the other simply turned around and went back whence it came! DRAT! What was wrong? It did not take long from my vantage point to determine the reason. LINE. The line, that I thought, was lying inconspicuously along the

strong sunshine, was without doubt the cause of the fish behaving as they did.

Now, how to get around this problem? Well there are a number of ways; the first to come to mind, and the one I tried on the afternoon in question, was to clip a 1oz bomb, via a snap link, onto the main line just beyond the rod top. Then, by pulling the line taught into a clip above the reel, the loops of line were pulled tight along the bottom. The indicator was fished at the top of the needle "clipped up style". It would have been nice to report that this little dodge resulted in a fish being caught, but no more fish passed by that day.

I did give this problem a lot of thought

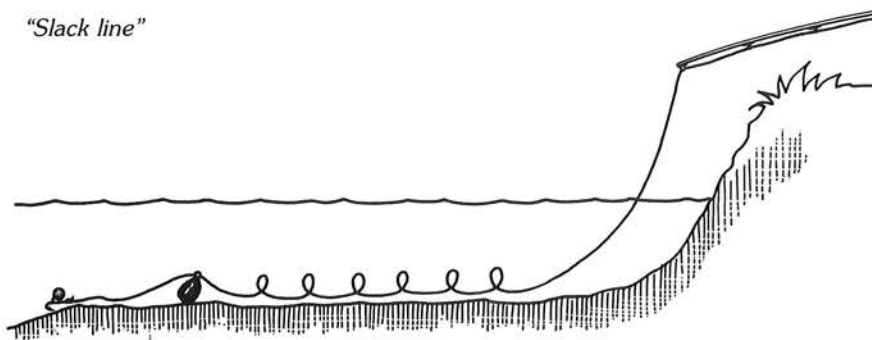
N.B. Don't use the bomb beyond the rod top if you are using any sort of leader, as the bomb and leader knot jam in the tip ring!



bottom, was in fact very much in evidence. It was lying in coils, spiralling along the lake bed, rather like a stretched out spring. This illustrated one big drawback in the use of nylon monofilament line, especially in the heavier breaking strains. That is "memory". This means that if nylon line is tightly coiled for any length of time, as on our reel spools, it retains some of that shape after casting out. This fact, combined with the shallow water and the

over the next couple of days. Those fish obviously saw the line, which was 15lb bs Sylcast because of the snags. Thick line, shallow water, bright sunshine and very nervous and pressured fish. Difficult fishing without a doubt. So how did all of this appear from the fishes' point of view? Well short of diving in with flippers and snorkel, we need to use a little logic and a large amount of guess work. Here is how I think the carp viewed the situation. The shallower the water, the more concentrated is the fish's view of things; in deep water line may seem insignificant as the increased space and volume give the carp security. Bright sunlight means generally increased visibility, and the possible dangers of shadows falling onto the water, and as the day in question was very calm, the surface of the water was totally unruffled. So the line penetrating the mirror-like surface must have been, from the fish's viewpoint, like us watching a bolt of lightning striking from the sky. Another thought worth considering is the question of light reflection from the line under the surface, making it stand out quite prominently against the subdued background.

"Slack line"



After a good deal of thought I decided that a lot of these problems could be simply solved by substituting the nylon line for braided line. Because the casting distance was only ten yards maximum, the increased diameter did not impede me very much, and only one rod would be used anyway. The line used was again 15lb bs Black Sylcast Braided, because it was readily available in 100 metre spools. This did in fact work in as much as the fish did now move over the line, the next time that they appeared that close in, but because of the clumsy behaviour of other anglers on two occasions, they did not stay long. One bloke in the next swim actually started spinning for pike and even cast into my swim as he did not know I was still there! There were though some interesting observations from this experiment. The first was that you don't realise how heavy braided line becomes under water until you use a long length (ie when using it as the main line). It also sinks quickly to the bottom and stays there. I would imagine that it is quite easy to seal the braided line against that possibility when using it as the hooklength. Beeswax is one possibility.

One other very important reason for using the braided line was the elements of feel and touch. On one previous occasion I'd seen fish behaving quite strangely around the terminal tackle. Two fish swam around dipping down and dragging their bellies and pelvic fins along the bottom. I'm certain that they were feeling for line, which they did detect, and moved off without taking one bait! In the incident described previously the light conditions were somewhat duller, so making it difficult to see the line which they suspected was there. One way to overcome this problem when fishing at distances which would make it very difficult to use braided line straight through, is to use just one yard of braided line behind the lead (see diagram).

One other area that I should have paid more attention to and didn't, was the preparation of "hookbaits." That is buoyant hookbaits or as they are now loosely called these days, "pop ups". The

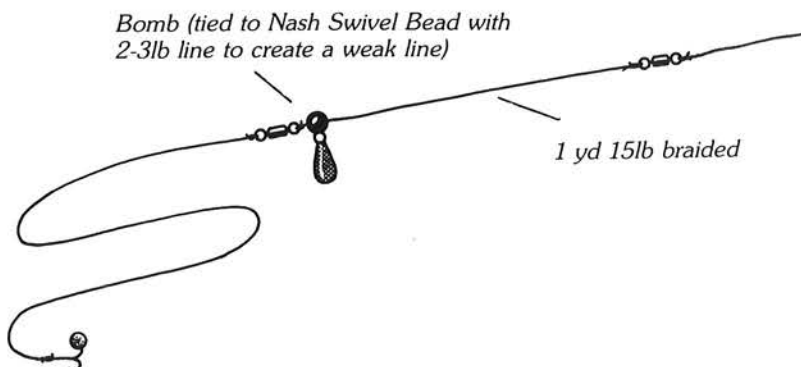


Chris with a fish that didn't spook at the baiting situation . . .

bait mix I used contained a fair proportion of Calcium Caseinate, and as I used the same mix for the preparation of hookbaits, the Calcium Caseinate being water soluble meant that a finely balanced hookbait only remained finely balanced for a short length of time, because the bait started to absorb water as soon as it was submerged. In one instance a bait which took two number 4 shot to just sink it, got noticeably heavy after one hour underwater; so much so that one shot could be removed. So with this bait mix the presentation was gradually getting worse the longer it was left out. Obviously

the answer to this presentation problem is to replace some or even all of the soluble part of the bait for insolubles such as Casein or Lactalbumin. Also the terms soluble and insoluble are relative in terms of time. Eventually, almost anything becomes water soluble! It would also be possible to add slightly more attractor/flavour or label to this separate hookbait mix in order to get the bait taken as soon as possible. Incidentally, float fishing is a great way of determining how well fish are taking the bait. The dips, rises and other frustrating movements a float makes before doing a disappearing act make it possible to determine whether or not the preparation needs improving.

Consistent and successful carp fishing is all about getting a whole host of variables into some sort of order or priority, such as feeding, location, bait, presentation of the bait, efficient bite detection, coupled with tackle capable of landing the fish in the given circumstances, then looking after the fish on the bank for the next bloke to catch. In other words getting it right more often than getting it wrong. For my own part I got it wrong more often than I got it right. This article was inspired by just a few hours patient observation. Those few hours were worth several thousand hours sitting in a bivvy! Know your enemy! O.K. I got it wrong quite a few times last summer, with a little help from a few people, like the bloke spinning and then there was the tench angler who played a carp from my swim for nearly three hours one night – but then that's another story I'd rather forget!!



PROTECT YOUR FUTURE



Angling is under threat from many quarters nowadays — the 'antis', misleading media programmes, closure of waters to angling, industrial and agricultural pollution, etc. Anglers need to come together to help protect and promote their sport, to form a strong and effective partnership which will ensure a healthy future for angling.

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Butter Beans	£1.57	£3.50	£6.52
Lima Beans	£1.57	£3.50	£6.52
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Mung Beans	£1.28	£2.82	£5.30
Tic Beans	89p	£1.82	£3.30
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Turkish Tares	£1.00	£2.12	£4.00
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2 lb	"	"	"
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2 lb	"	"	"
2 1/4 lb	"	"	"
2 3/4 lb	"	"	"

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ZEKE

ZEKE really WAS his name and he really WAS as 'ornery as the catfish he sought so regularly in Beaver Lake, Arkansas. He often caught carp when he was fishing for catfish and he often caught catfish when he was fishing for carp. But he would never admit to any accidental catches. When he caught a carp on a piece of chicken liver or a piece of fish gut he would swear, hand on heart, that he was "doin' his damndest to get a carp for the smoker." Who ever heard of fishing for carp with chicken livers? The truth of it all, however, was that bits of fish and meat and liver were all likely to prove good carp baits in an area where fish were gutted, gilled and cleaned daily. The remains were simply swilled down off the boat dock area into the 30 feet of water below where, one would imagine, they were awaited eagerly at certain times of day by the scavengers on the bottom.

I first caught carp on fish "cubes" in Idaho many miles west of Beaver, but I quickly saw the potential fish baits had to offer and I was never surprised at what happened anywhere in the USA.

Zeke was a lucky man. He had a loving wife who doted upon his whims and fancies. She ran a bait store and the equivalent of a village shop while Zeke took a six pack of beer to his favourite "fishin' hole". In the summer he sat either on the boat dock or under a shady tree "still fishing" for whatever came along. Mostly he would use his big cane pole. A primitive weapon with nothing in the way of rod rings or reel to store surplus line. Any fish hooked (and there were plenty) had to fight it out at the end of the line fixed to the top of the pole. The issue was seldom in doubt! Zeke's pole fishing was a very relaxed affair. He heaved out a fixed lead and a suitable odious bait and "sat a spell" under his tree. While he was "a-settin'" he looped the line around one of his toes so that any pull would be registered. Not such a stupid idea in the circumstances and always a profitable one if the fish "was hittin'."

We asked him once how he managed to get permission from his lovely wife to go off fishing every day while she tended to the many chores involved in running a country business. The tale he told had been heard before but, he swore, hand on heart, that his version was true!

When he first married, he said, he had hired a buggy to take his bride to the honeymoon cabin but, instead of hiring the traditional pony, he had bought an old nag destined for the glue factory instead.

Fred J. Taylor

After the wedding, in true style, he had helped his bride into the buggy and departed to the mountain cabin. When the horse pulled the buggy off the main track and went haring across the rock-strewn desert, he swore and said simply, "that's once." When the wretched animal left the track again and charged through a monstrous muddy puddle, drenching both him and his bride with slime, he swore again and said "that's twice."

And when the horse backed up over his foot as he was lifting his bride down at the honeymoon cabin, he swore yet again. "That's it," he said, "that's three times," and he shot the poor beast between the eyes with his .44 revolver!

At this point his newly-wed wife protested. "That was not a nice thing to do to that poor old horse," she complained.

Zeke looked her full in the eyes and said "that's once"!

"Ain't never had no bother since" he told us with a twinkle in his eye!

It's a hard story to believe, I know. And yet there was a certain conviction in his narrative that kept me guessing. It has been that way ever since.

As I write these words, I am planning to visit that very spot within a matter of weeks. Whether Zeke will still be there with his massive cane pole or his alternative 5ft solid glass stick is something I have yet to discover. He was old when I last saw him some eight years or so ago but I saw a lot of life left in those fiery eyes then.

When I first fished Beaver Lake I had no idea about the carp potential. Some said there were carp and catfish to be caught. Others said I should get out after the bass and crappie since they were the accepted species for sport fishing. No one, it seemed, bothered about carp. I had not met Zeke then.

On a moored houseboat, belonging to a very dear American friend, I chose one hot afternoon to fish and, after a swim in the lake, I paddled across the deck to cast out a bait of breadflake – just for the hell of it. I saw the bait sink under its own weight and went back into the cabin for a cold beer. I returned just in time to grab the rod as it tried to do a vertical take off over the boat deck rail. The rod was a lovely 9ft soft actioned, steelhead, spinning rod. The line was just 6lb b.s., and I had all the room in the world! I never enjoyed a fight with a carp more. Hooking it had been a matter of luck (who am I kidding? It hooked itself!) but

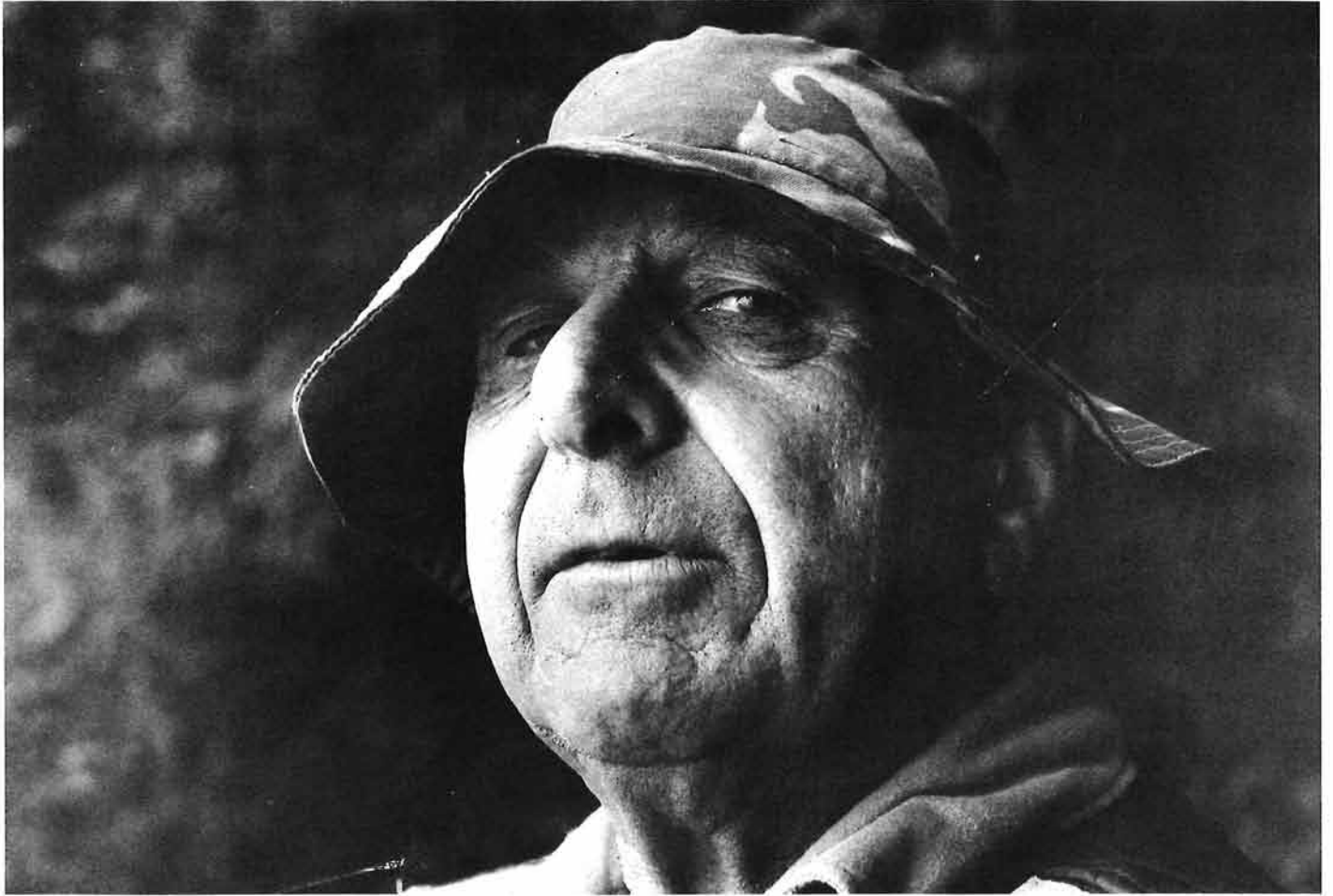
the power of that common carp in deep, clear water, was amazing. I could not really "give it stick" even had I wanted to. The soft rod and simple tackle did not allow any horse play. And in any case, I WANTED that carp in the net – badly! It weighed just over 14lb and was the first of, I believe, some fifteen carp caught within the next few hours. After the first two or three, my American buddy could stand it no longer and instructed me to "tie me on one of them goddam hooks, pinch on a bit of that goddam bread, and let ME catch one of them suckers!"

Zeke got to hear about "the way that Limey caught the lunker carp" and I was told that he watched a similar performance a few days later.

Perhaps it was the sight of a big fish being played on a light and lissom rod (the steelhead rod was fashioned from a superb fly rod blank) that gave Zeke reason to set up his own 5ft stick armed with 30lb test line on a closed face abortion called a spin-cast reel. Seated on an ordinary kitchen chair with his six pack of beer in the cooler by his side he tossed his bait out off the jetty. Freeline tackle is unheard of out there and Zeke's bait was assisted on its way by a 2oz chunk of lead.

A fixed lead again; no provision for line passage!

He closed the internal bale of the reel, laid the rod down on the boards of the jetty, and ripped the top off a cold beer. I could not have thought up, no matter how hard I tried, a worse carp fishing set-up than Zeke's! But he was not interested in technique and, in any event, he'd done it



Regular contributor Fred J. pictured in a moment when he was *NOT* amused.

Picture courtesy Evening Standard

all before quite successfully.

Looking at his tiny rod lying prone on the decking, I wondered how he planned to strike in the event of a bite. He certainly could not reach the rod from his upright kitchen chair position. His reel was closed. A pull from a fish would drag the whole outfit across the jetty and, of course, the carp would immediately reject the bait. Wouldn't it?

"How the devil are you going to deal with a hit when it comes?" I asked (US fish don't bite, they "hit").

"Well," he said, "I'll jest lift up m' foot and stomp on the rod."

He raised his foot so that it was poised some six inches over the butt to demonstrate and, at that precise moment, the "hit" came! With nothing to stop it, the whole outfit took off into the depths of the lake and was never seen again! Zeke's stomp was, he reckoned, a mite too late.

Beaver Lake, of course, is a very large water. A flooded valley in fact. Its shore line is some 1,300 miles in length, following as it does many bays, outcrops, inlets and lagoons. It is not always possible to be in the right spot at the right time so I missed the old fellow on my last visit.

Hopefully I will see him this year. Hopefully, too, he has learned a lesson from his past disaster. I instructed him in the use of good rod rests and assured him that, despite the carp's suicidal tendencies, a free-running line is

decidedly better than one anchored at the reel end! I saw him using a rod rest once after the event but, as the rod was cocked up in the air and pointing to the sky rather than the water, I have a feeling Zeke still expected his carp to hook themselves.

Perhaps the fact that none of the carp Zeke caught ever learned NOT to hook themselves again ensures the continued success of his simple approach! Zeke's carp, like all those caught by the relatively few regular USA carp anglers, are taken away and eaten. Mostly they are never returned and so they never become very sophisticated.

I cannot recall just how many carp we caught in the two weeks I first spent at Beaver, but I know that, after a few days of catching and releasing fish from the one spot, bites became fewer and fewer. Coincidence perhaps, but I wonder. Were there fewer carp than we thought? Were we catching the same fish several times?

Catching carp on fish portions was commonplace in those days and I have since used them in several different parts with success. I believe we could do worse than try them here over a long, experimental period.

Did not Dick Walker suggest in Stillwater Angling all those years ago that some of his abortive eel runs (using tiny whole roach baits) might have been down to carp?

Old Zeke never left me in any doubt!

Carpworld availability

THIS is the first issue of our new magazine, and we are sorry that it is a couple of months later than intended. All things being equal, and a following wind, we will catch up with our intended scheduling of June, September, December and March publication dates by the middle of December – the Christmas issue.

Carpworld is available through newsagent and bookstand outlets, selected tackle shops, and direct from us on subscription. There should be a subscription slip in your copy of the magazine, but if there isn't, just send a remittance of £10.50 made payable to "Angling Publications" and we will send you a copy of the magazine each quarter. Please show your name and address clearly when submitting your remittance.

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The very latest space age material manufactured by North Western. Super strong rods with amazing casting ability. These are the RODS for the coming years.

SPECIFICATIONS: - Part built and finished rods will have abbreviated handles in duplon, torpedo Butt grip. Black FPS reel seat, 7 SVSG and tip ring (silicon carbide). Black whippings tipped with Crimson. Custom built in our own workshop to excellent high standards. Finished rods with quality cloth bag.

DYNEEMA THRU-ACTION:-

	T/CURVE	BLANK ONLY	PART BUILT	FINISHED ROD
Light Carp 12ft	1 1/4lb	£113.75	£120.70	£149.00
Medium Carp 12ft	2lb	£113.75	£120.70	£149.00
Multi Range Carp 12ft	2 1/2lb	£113.75	£120.70	£149.00

DYNEEMA LONG RANGE

	T/CURVE	BLANK ONLY	PART BUILT	FINISHED ROD
Long Range Carp 12ft	2 1/4lb	£113.75	£120.70	£149.00
Extreme Long Range Carp/Pike 12ft	2 3/4lb	£113.75	£120.70	£149.00

BOB FROST "ROYALE" CARP RODS

New for 1988, exclusive blanks made for us by North Western Blanks Ltd. Extra Kevlar wraps to increase hooking and casting power yet with a full thru action so as not to lose fish with maximum stress.

SPECIFICATIONS: - Exclusive Carbon/Kevlar North Western Blanks. Fuji silicon carbide rings 7 plus tip. Black FPS reel seat, duplon abbreviated handles, torpedo butt grip. Black whippings tipped Purple. Quality rod bag. Produced in our own workshop to excellent finish.

ROYALE 12ft - 2lb T.C. This versatile all round Carp rod can be used from the margins to 100 yards plus with ease. Use lines of 7lb to 14lbs with weights up to 2 1/2ozs £115.00

ROYALE 12ft - 2 1/4lb T.C. With the unique thru action of this rod, baits can be fished in the margins to 125 yards plus with the safety that the hook will not pull out, at maximum stress. Lines of 7lb to 15lbs with weights of 2 3/4ozs £120.00

ROYALE 12ft - 2 1/2lb T.C. Increased stiffness towards the butt provides extra power to achieve long distances 140 yards plus yet will set the hook with amazing quickness retaining a good thru-action. 8lb to 16lbs lines with weight up to 3ozs £120.00

BOB FROST "SUPREME" CARP RODS

Using the exclusive blanks from North Western as the Royale range, we offer an alternative finish produced to an immaculate standard in our own workshop. Black FPS reel seats, duplon abbreviated handles and torpedo butt grips. 3 leg Fuji black rings with tip, black whippings tipped Crimson. Quality cloth rod bag.

	LENGTH	T/CURVE	FINISHED ROD
Light Carp	11ft	1 1/4lb	£97.00
Light Carp	12ft	1 1/4lb	£99.50
Medium Carp	11ft	2lb	£97.00
Medium Carp	12ft	2lb	£99.50
Multi Range Carp	11ft	2 1/4lb	£99.00
Multi Range Carp	12ft	2 1/4lb	£105.00
Long Range Carp	11ft	2 1/2lb	£99.00
Long Range Carp	12ft	2 1/2lb	£105.00

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Without doubt the finest Carbon-Kevlar range of rods of today. Britain's fastest selling Carp and Pike rods, with their own unique thru action which eliminates fish being lost during maximum stress. Complete custom building service with these rods with your name etc written on the rods if required. As standard rods have 7 plus tip 3 leg Fuji rings, abbreviated duplon handles, torpedo butt, black FPS reel seat, black whippings. Finished rod with quality rod bag. All prices are at 15% discount off R.R.P.

	T/CURVE	BLANK ONLY	PART BUILT	FINISHED ROD
Tench 11ft	1 1/4lb	£56.20	£63.20	£82.60
Tench 12ft	1 1/4lb	£58.45	£65.10	£84.60
Tench/Barbel 11ft	1 1/2lb	£56.20	£63.20	£82.60
Tench/Barbel 12ft	1 1/2lb	£58.45	£65.10	£84.60
Light Carp 11ft	1 3/4lb	£56.20	£63.20	£82.60
Light Carp 12ft	1 3/4lb	£58.45	£65.10	£84.60
Medium Carp 11ft	2lb	£56.20	£63.20	£82.60
Medium Carp 12ft	2lb	£58.45	£65.10	£84.60
Multi Range Carp 11ft	2 1/4lb	£61.20	£68.35	£88.30
Multi Range Carp 12ft	2 1/4lb	£63.25	£70.35	£91.50
Long Range Carp 11ft	2 1/2lb	£61.20	£68.35	£88.30
Long Range Carp 12ft	2 1/2lb	£63.25	£70.35	£91.50

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Very popular glass rods of the highest quality. Part built and finished rods have a full length Isothane handle with John Roberts sliding reel fittings. Finished rods have 3 leg Fuji rings and rod bag. All prices have a 15% discount off R.R.P.

	CODE	TEST CURVE	PART BUILT	FINISHED ROD
Tench 11ft	AC2	1 1/4lb	£20.00	£36.50
Carp 11ft	SS5	2lb	£21.30	£41.35
Long Range Carp 11ft	SS6A	2 1/4lb	£22.70	£42.00
Long Range Carp/Pike 11ft	SS6	2 1/2lb	£22.70	£42.00
Pike 11ft	PK3	2 1/4lb	£23.10	£42.00

SILSTAR & DAM CARP & PIKE RODS

	CODE	LENGTH	TEST CURVE	FINISHED ROD
Silstar Traverse X	3582	11ft	1 1/4lb	£59.95
Silstar Traverse X	3583	12ft	1 1/4lb	£64.95
Silstar Traverse X	3584	11ft	2lb	£62.95
Silstar Traverse X	3585	12ft	2lb	£66.95
Silstar Traverse X	3586	11ft	2 1/4lb	£64.95
Silstar Traverse X	3587	12ft	2 1/4lb	£68.95
Silstar Powerwind	3593	11ft	2lb	£49.95
Silstar Powerwind	3594	12ft	2lb	£54.95
Silstar Powerwind	3595	11ft	2 1/4lb	£54.95
Silstar Powerwind	3596	12ft	2 1/4lb	£59.95
Silstar Composite	3512	11ft	1 3/4lb	£26.95
DAM "X" Kevlar Carp		11ft	2lb	£59.95
DAM Quicksilver Carp		11ft	2lb	£39.95
DAM Chevron Carp		11ft	2lb	£29.95
DAM Quicksilver Pike		11ft	3lb	£44.95
DAM Chevron Pike		11ft	3lb	£34.95

LANDING NETS

North Western	36 C/U/N	6' Handle	£35.30	36' Net	£8.65	36' Arms	£10.10
North Western	42 C/U/N	6' Handle	£37.55	42' Net	£10.80	42' Arms	£10.10
North Western	50 C/U/N	6' Handle	£41.99	50' Net	£15.20	50' Arms	£12.40
Gardner	36 C/U/N	6' Handle	£34.50	6' Handle	£16.15	Spreader Block	£2.99
Gardner	42 C/U/N	6' Handle	£37.95	36' Dual Mesh	£12.50	42' Dual Mesh	£12.50

KEVIN NASH TACKLE

BROLLEY OVERWRAPS			
45" Canvas	£74.18	12'	£35.70
50" Canvas	£77.62	13'	£36.74
45" Nylon	£49.93	Delux 12'	£37.95
50" Nylon	£58.65	13'	£56.92
BROLLEY WRAPS			
45"	£27.27	ROLL UP HOLDALL	£29.33
50"	£29.60	MATCH HOLDALLS	
45" Door Model	£34.66	5' 3" Fisher	£17.95
50" Door Model	£37.09	5' 8" Fisher	£18.95
OVAL OVERWRAP	£79.89	5' 3" Specialist	£34.95
OVAL BROLLEY	£62.79	5' 8" Specialist	£35.95
GROUND SHEETS ETC		5' 3" Matchman	£25.95
45"	£15.95	CARRY ALLS	£26.95
50"	£16.98	Standard	£17.95
Oval Special	£20.70	Jumbo	£20.95
Storm Rods	£2.94	Net bag	£8.95
Storm Rod Caps	£2.94	STALKER SLINGS	
X strong Bivvy Pegs	£3.97	Standard	£11.73
Bivvy Mallet	£3.95	Delux	£15.87
Bivvy Peg Extractor	£1.64	ACCESSORIES	
SACKS		Bolt beads	£0.97
Standard	£5.88	Swivel beads	£0.97
X Large	£6.99	Fluore beads	£0.97
Big Sack	£7.59	Black beads 3mm	£0.50
Mac Vision Panel	£7.42	Black beads 5mm	£0.50
Big Mouth XL	£7.38	Black beads 8mm	£0.62
Big Mouth Giant	£8.28	Stiff boom tube	£0.66
Barbel Tunnel	£6.56	Boom tube 1.5mm	£0.68
Sack Clip	£1.38	Boom tube 2.0mm	£0.68
Sack Extension Cord	£2.24	Boom tube 3.0mm	£0.68
Pike Tunnel	£7.59	Rig tube 0.5mm	£0.68
WEIGH SLINGS		Rig tube 1.0mm	£0.68
Standard	£4.83	Polytops	£0.53
Big Sling	£5.33	Rig Foam	£0.98
Specialist Sling	£5.33	BUTT FOAM	
Pike Standard	£8.28	18mm	£0.46
Pike Jumbo	£9.66	30mm	£0.46
UNHOOKING MATS		Deadbait Casting Clip	£1.97
Carp	£8.52	K.N. Hooks size 4	£1.85
Pike	£9.97	K.N. Hooks size 6	£1.85
BOILIE BAGS		K.N. Hooks size 8	£1.85
Standard	£3.68	K.N. Hooks size 10	£1.85
Jumbo	£4.99	Ejecta boilie	£1.71
Delux Special	£12.07	Floater Riser	£1.84
ROD MATS		Boilie Baiting Needle	£0.90
12' Rod	£4.89	Boilie Hair Stops	£0.51
13' Rod	£5.45	Hair Bead & Needle	£1.61
SLEEPING BAG COVERS		Spare Hair Beads	£0.57
Standard	£15.71	Anti-T/Tube Threader	£1.42
Force 10	£26.68	Rig Book	£1.40
Bag/Mattress Cover	£36.86	Advanced Rig Book	£5.99
KM Bag/Mattress Cover	£39.68	Camera Monopod	£0.87
BEDCHAIR COVERS		Scales 56lb	£37.95
Standard	£13.99	Scales 112lb	£37.95
KM Standard	£16.42	Umbrella Net Bag	£2.84
Mattress	£25.51	Car Clean Holdall Sleeve	£7.25
KM Mattress	£29.96	Rucksack Large	£59.51
Spare Elastics	£1.13	Rucksack Small	£39.68
Opti Pouch	£1.99	K.N. Bolt Rig	£0.90
Carp Ears	£1.40	Cruise Leads x 3 1 1/2oz	£1.12
Speaker Covers	£0.74	Cruise Leads x 3 1 1/2oz	£1.12
Opti Polo	£1.76	Cruise Leads x 3 1 1/2oz	£1.12
Large Bore Rig Beads	£0.40	Cruise Leads x 3 2oz	£1.26
Anti-Tangle Beads	£0.80	Cruise Leads x 3 2 1/2oz	£1.26
Weighted A/T Beads	£1.10	Cruise Leads x 3 2 1/2oz	£1.26

ACCESSORIES

Tackle Box 2 Tray	£4.75	HOOKS	
Tackle Box 3 Tray	£8.75	Drennan Super Specialist 4 to 20 per 50	£2.60
Stewart Box Small	£1.80	Drennan Specialist Barbless 6 to 20 per 50	£1.90
Stewart Box Medium	£2.50	Kamasan (B980) sizes 4-20 per 50	£2.60
Stewart Box Large	£4.75	J. Hilton sizes 4-12 per 25	£2.20
Drennan Feederpult Small	£4.35	J. Hilton Barbless 4-10 per 25	£2.40
Drennan Feederpult Large	£4.35	Au Lion D'or (1534) size 4-12 per 100	£2.75
Boiliepult Small	£4.90	Mustad (34021) size 4-12 per 50	£2.35
Boiliepult Large	£4.90	Mustad (34007) size 4-8 per 50	£2.70
Mini Pult	£3.25	K. Nash Outpoints size 4-10 per 25	£1.85
Mini Pult Pouch	£0.89	R. Hutchinson size 4-10 per 25	£1.85
Feeder Pult Pouch Small	£0.89	Kamostrike size 4-12 per 10	BLACK £0.60
Feeder Pult Pouch Large	£0.89	(The new North Western Hooks)	BROWN £0.60
Boiliepult Small Cup	£0.89		GREEN £0.60
Boiliepult Large Cup	£1.66	Hook Sharpener	£0.99
Repair Kit	£0.96	Delux Hook Sharpener	£2.00
Boiliepult tube	£1.10	Link Leger Beads	£0.48
Black Widow Catapult	£6.25	Leger Stops Mini	£0.40
Diablo Delux Catapult	£12.50	Leger Stops Standard	£0.58
Spare Power Bands	£1.75	Feeder Booms per 3	£0.80
FORCEPS		Run Clips per 2	£0.80
6" Curved or Straight	£2.50	Line Clips per 2	£0.80
8" Curved or Straight	£3.50	Spool Clips per 3	£0.75
12" Curved or Straight	£4.95	Bubble Floats per 2 x 30mm	£0.75
Scissors Stainless Steel 4"	£1.99	Bubble Floats per 2 x 40mm	£0.95
Penknife 11 Tools	£6.95	Boilie Bucket Medium	£0.85
Pocket Mate Torch	£3.50	Boilie Bucket Large	£1.50
Berkeley Swivels size 10 per 50	£2.99	Flotabait	£1.10
Swivels size 10 per 50	£1.95	Malleable Weight	£1.10
Berkeley Crosslock size 12 per 10	£2.70	Hook Wallets	£1.50
American Snap Swivel size 10 per 50	£1.99	Silicon Mucilin	£0.70
Drennan 3 way Swivels per 10	£0.75	Quick Sink	£0.70
Split Rings per 100	£1.60	Starlits	£0.70
Brass Rings per 50	£3.00	Silicon tube per metre 1mm	£0.75
Black Beads 3mm	£0.50	Silicon tube per metre 2mm	£0.75
Black Beads 5mm	£0.50	Power Gum 11lb	£1.65
Black Beads 8mm	£0.62	Power Gum 22lb	£2.10
		Insect Repellent per Can	£1.70

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TACKLE



GARDNER TACKLE

BUZZER BARS (Black)		Sidewinder Boilie Machine	£49.85
2 Rod 8" Push On	£2.42	Rolaball Bait Maker 14mm	£6.47
2 Rod 11" Push On	£2.50	Rolaball Bait Maker 18mm	£6.47
2 Rod 8" Screw In	£3.10	Rolling Table	£2.07
2 Rod 11" Screw In	£3.80	Particle Bait Maker	£1.80
2 Rod 15" Adjustable	£3.28	Suspender	£1.80
3 Rod 13" Push On	£3.45	Mixer Fixer	£1.80
3 Rod 13" Screw In	£3.62	Bait Rocket	£2.76
3 Rod 16" Screw In	£4.30	Magic Marker	£1.20
3 Rod 20" Adjustable	£4.30	Rod Pod Standard	£13.45
BUZZER BARS (Stainless)		Rod Pod Long	£15.95
2 Rod 6 1/2" Screw In	£4.15	Rod Pod Aerial	£4.65
2 Rod 8" Screw In	£4.30	Rig Bin	£3.62
2 Rod 11" Adjustable	£5.00	Hair Needle Standard	£0.57
3 Rod 11" Screw In	£4.83	Hair Needle Mini	£0.57
3 Rod 13" Screw In	£5.00	Stringer Needle	£1.00
3 Rod 16" Adjustable	£5.70	Throwing Stick	£2.25
Buzzer Bar Spacers Short	£0.69	PVA Tape	£1.30
Buzzer Bar Spacers Long	£0.86	PVA Bags	£1.30
BANK STICKS (Black)		PVA String	£1.30
10" ext	£2.76	PVA Thread	£1.30
20" ext	£3.19	ROD REST HEADS	
30" ext	£3.62	Front "V" Nylon	£0.35
BANK STICKS (Stainless)		Rear "U" Nylon	£0.35
10" ext	£3.80	Rear Rubber	£0.35
20" ext	£4.75	Head Studs	£0.36
30" ext	£5.70	Camera Adaptor	£0.99
BANK STICKS (Rubber Head)		Agletlock	£2.17
10" ext	£2.76	BETALIGHTS	
20" ext	£3.19	Flat	£2.60
30" ext	£3.62	Round	£2.76
Stabilizer Black	£1.90	Square	£4.83
Stabilizer Stainless	£2.76	Bite Alarm Isotopes per pair	£3.60
Hammer Head	£1.00	Pilot Floats 1"	£0.40
Windbeater Climber 24"	£1.90	Pilot Floats 1 1/2"	£0.50
Windbeater Climber 36"	£2.10	Pilot Floats 1 3/4"	£0.60
Spare Bodies	£0.75	Polyballs (per 5) 1/2"	£0.90
Grease Monkey 24"	£3.28	Polyballs (per 5) 3/4"	£1.00
Grease Monkey 36"	£3.80	Polyballs (per 5) 1"	£1.10
Spare Bodies	£0.98	Polyballs (per 5) 1 1/2"	£1.20
Trigger Monkey 24"	£3.62	Polyballs (per 5) 1 3/4"	£1.30
Trigger Monkey 36"	£4.14	Controllers 5gms	£0.60
Spare Bodies	£1.20	Controllers 10gms	£0.69
AERIAL NEEDLE HOLDER		Controllers 15gms	£0.86
2 Rod	£4.65	Controllers 20gms	£1.03
3 Rod	£6.38	Controllers 30gms	£1.45
Pike Drop Off	£2.15	Controllers 40gms	£1.69
Adjustable Line Clip Standard	£0.91	Anti Tangle Rig/Beads	£0.76
With Terry Clip	£1.09	Tube Threader	£1.00
Hair Stops	£0.39	Spare Thumb Screws	£0.40
Brolly Pole Standard	£6.47	Spare Adjustable Ends	£1.50
Brolly Pole Extra Long	£7.33	Spare Aerial Ends	£1.96

BAIT INGREDIENTS

	1 PINT	5 PINTS
	£	£
Casein (New Zealand Lactic)	1.99	9.40
Casein (Hydrochloric)	1.99	9.40
Sodium Caseinate (Spray Dried)	1.50	6.90
Calcium Caseinate (Spray Dried)	1.50	6.90
Lactalbumin (New Zealand)	2.99	13.50
Soya Isolate (U.S.A.)	1.50	6.90
Egg Albumin (Denmark)	2.70	12.00
Wheat Gluten	1.50	6.90
Soya Flour	0.75	3.45
Vitamaleo	1.20	5.40
Salmon Fry	0.99	4.75
Trout Pellets	0.85	3.80
Codliverine	1.25	5.60
Molasses Meal	0.50	2.25
Equivite	1.90	9.00
Wheat Germ	0.50	2.25
White Fish Meal	0.85	3.80
Maize Meal (Fibre)	0.50	2.25
Layers Mash	0.50	2.25
Rennet Casein	2.20	10.20
Shrimp Meal	1.10	5.05
Lactopro	1.10	5.05
Mackerel Meal	0.85	3.80
Sand Eel Meal	0.85	3.80
Capelin	0.85	3.80
Sardine Meal	0.85	3.80
Peanuts (Jumbo Size)	0.65	2.75
Tigernuts	1.10	4.95

BASE MIXES

All made from Casein, Soya Flour, Gluten etc. Full instructions with each Pint. 1 Pint = 10 ounces.

	1 PINT	5 PINTS
50% Protein Mix	£1.55	£6.95
70% Protein Mix	£2.10	£9.50
95% Protein Mix	£2.50	£11.00

P & P EXTRA

POST & PACKING

1 Pint	£0.75	16-20 Pints	£3.25
2-5 Pints	£1.90	21-25 Pints	£3.45
6-10 Pints	£2.75	26-30 Pints	£3.60
11-15 Pints	£3.10	31+	£4.60

POWDER DYES

Bright Red		White
Egg Yellow		Apple Green
Orange		Blue
Black		Brown

£1.60 per 50gm (Post free)

INTENSE SWEETNER

A clear liquid sweetener for use in either summer or winter. 1 fluid ounce = 14lbs of sugar. 1 capfull per 10ozs of bait.

£1.85 per 50ml bottle (Post free)
£6.95 per 250ml bottle (Post free)

POST & PACKING EXTRA

LIQUID FLAVOURINGS

All 1000-1 strength. Use 1-2 capfulls per 10ozs of bait.
Almond, Aniseed, Apricot, Banana, Barley Sugar, Bilberry, Blackcurrant, Brandy, Butter, Butterscotch, Cheese, Cherry, Cinnamon, Coconut, Cream, Spice, Fenugreek, Golden Syrup, Guava, Hazelnut, Honey, Kiwi, Luncheon Meat, Licorice, Malt, Maple, Maple Cream, Mango, Milk, Nectar, Peach, Peanut, Passion Fruit, Pineapple, Strawberry, Seafish, Sweetcorn, Sweet & Sour, Tutti Frutti, Treacle, Turkish Delight, Toffee, Walnut.
£1.85 per 50ml bottle (Post free)
£7.50 per 250ml bottle (Post free)

CATCHUM REGULAR FLAVOURS

Caramel, Seafood, Cola, Dandelion & Burdock, Vanilla, Cashew Nut, Savoury Meat, Champagne, Fragrant Apple, Cornish Ice Cream, Marzipan, Nougat, Vanilla Fudge, Spruce, Fruit Cordial, Date, Smoke.
£1.85 per 50ml bottle (Post free)

CATCHUM EXOTIC FLAVOURS

Pandan, Capsicum, Durian, Rhubarb Ripple, Shrimp Cocktail, Scopex, Robin Red, Garlic, Lychee, Crab, Kamelle, Lobster Thermopore, Pungent Spice, Mulligatawny, Chili, Liver Sausage, Steak & Kidney, Cod Roe, Kummel, Topper, Enigma, Buttercup, Tiger Nut.
£2.20 per 50ml bottle (Post free)

CATCHUM SPECIALIST FLAVOURS

Hemp, Crayfish, Freshwater Mussel, Ultraspice, Pukka, Salmon, Atlantic Prawn, Megaspice, Oyster, Weirdo, Water Snail.
£2.50 per 50ml bottle (Post free)

CATCHUM ETHYL ALCOHOL FLAVOURS

Juicy Fruit, Cherry Top, Rancid Butter, Strawberry Jam, High Cheese, Fish Spawn.
£3.20 per 50ml bottle (Post free)

CATCHUM STIMULATORS & ENHANCERS

SENSE APPEALS:-	APPETITE STIMS:-	ENHANCERS:-
Regular	Fish	Multiflavour £4.50
Spice	Spice	Sweetbait £4.50
Savoury	Meat	Aquacrave Cherry Top £6.50
Shellfish	Savoury	Aquacrave Swan Mussel £6.50
	Sweet	Aquamo £6.75
	Fruit	
All £4.00 (Post free)	All £2.30 (Post free)	(All Post free)

CATCHUM READY MIXED BAITS

Seafood blend, Ultra Spice, White Lightning, Minglefruit, Extract blend, Sucre blend, Black Juice.
All £2.50 (Post free)

Robin Red 1 kilo Mix, Meaty Mix 1 kilo, Fish base 1 kilo
All £7.80 plus £1.90 P & P

LIVER EXTRACT

Manufactured for pharmaceutical purposes and therefore conforms to the highest standards. Can be used as a flavour or part of a protein mix. Very, very potent.
£5.50 per 250grams (Post free)

ATOMIZER SPRAY CAPS

The new method of flavouring boilies whilst frozen. Uses less flavouring and the decision on flavour can be left until 2-3 hours prior to fishing. Can be used to flavour maggots, hemp and tares etc very successfully. All caps fit our 50ml bottles only.
Spray cap £0.80 (Post free)

CRAFTY CATCHER BOILIES

Lobster Royale
Smoked Salmon
Caribbean Cocktail
Peanut Pro
Dairy Cream Fudge
Strawberry Cream
Black Cherry
Tutti Frutti
King Prawn
Neutra Pro
Red Fruit Floater
Yellow Fruit Floater
All £3.50 per pack plus 50p P & P

VITAMIN

A special blend of 12 essential vitamins and 9 minerals in fine powder form. Ideal for balanced H.N.V. baits. Use 1/2oz per 10oz of bait mix.
£2.50 per 500 grams (Post free)

FLAVOUR ENHANCER

An especially blended mixture containing MSG which will very effectively improve the taste of your bait, and will therefore stimulate fish into feeding. Works well with fish, spice and meaty flavours. Enough for 500/1000 mixes. Use 1/2 teaspoon per 10oz of bait mix.
£3.25 per 250grams (Post free)

REELS

Baitrunner Plus 3500	£74.90
Baitrunner Plus 4500	£79.90
Baitrunner Seaspin 3500	£64.90
Baitrunner Seaspin 4500	£69.90
Baitrunner Standard 3500	£54.90
Baitrunner Standard 4500	£59.90
Biomaster 3500	£66.90
Biomaster 4000	£70.35
Carbomatic 3000	£49.90
Custom GT 2000	£34.90
Custom GT 2500	£36.90
Custom GT 3000	£39.90
SGT-Master Drag 3000	£35.90
SGT-Master Drag 4000	£42.90
SSG-X 2000	£27.90
SSG-X 2500	£29.90
SSG-X 3000	£34.90
LX 2000	£19.90
LX 3000	£24.90
ABU 655GT	£45.95
Mitchell 2250RD	£39.95
Mitchell 300A	£35.95
Ryobi Ceratec ML 3-5	£47.50
Silstar GX40	£27.99
Silstar DX40	£22.99
Silstar CX40	£16.99

FOX BEDCHAIRS

Super Delux Bedchair	£139.90
Adjusta-Level Bedchair	£82.90
Non Adjust Bedchair	£49.90
Adjusta-Level Chair	£42.80
Non Adjust Chair	£24.90
Dzus Ever-Level Chair	£40.38
Spare Bedchair Feet	£1.95
Spare Bedchair Elastics	£1.25

SCALES

New Avon 40lbs	£21.00
Avon Scale Pouch	£2.50
Salter Brass 44lb	£22.50
Salter 44lbs	£13.25
Salter 33lbs	£11.50

LEADS

BLACK BOMBS	
1 1/2ozs per 5	£1.80
1 1/2ozs	£1.90
1 1/2ozs	£2.20
2ozs	£2.30
2 1/2ozs	£2.50
2 1/2ozs	£2.70
3ozs	£2.90

BLACK RISERS	
1 1/2ozs per 5	£1.40
1 1/2ozs	£1.65
2ozs	£2.10

DACRON

SYLCAST 100M	
6lb	£4.95
8lb	£4.95
10lb	£5.95
12lb	£5.95
15lb	£6.25
GARDNER 100M	
11lb	£3.26
6lb	£4.63
8lb	£4.92
10lb	£5.20
12lb	£5.49

MASTERBRAID 100 yds	
11b	£3.95
3lb	£3.95
6lb	£4.75
10lb	£4.75
12lb	£5.95
15lb	£6.50
20lb	£6.95

OPTONICS ETC

Super Compact	£55.95
Special Compact	£44.95
Standard Compact	£34.95
Spare Pack	£2.50
Bankstick Adaptors	£3.60
Vee Betalights	£3.60
Optonic Key	£0.60
B.J. Bite Alarm	£13.99
Beacon Bite Alarm	£3.75

ANTI-TANGLE ACCESS	
2mm tubing	£0.75
12" Stiff tube	£0.65
Clear Silicon	£1.50

All leads include Post & Packing

BULK SPOOLS OF LINE

SYLCAST SORRELL 1000M			
4lbs	£6.95	8lbs	£8.95
5lbs	£7.45	9lbs	£8.95
6lbs	£7.95	11lbs	£9.45
7lbs	£8.45	15lbs	£9.95
MAXIMA 660yds			
3lbs	£7.75	8lbs	£9.05
4lbs	£7.95	10lbs	£9.20
5lbs	£8.40	12lbs	£9.50
6lbs	£8.65	15lbs	£10.55

STEADFAST UMBRELLAS

45" Tilt	£28.95
50" Tilt	£33.50
45" Nubrolli	£33.75
50" Nubrolli	£38.75
Guy Ropes	£1.75
Piledriver Spike	£5.50

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- ★ Rods, P/Built, Blanks any number £3.00 ★
- ★ Bedchairs, Chairs, Umbrellas £3.00 ★
- ★ Landing Nets £2.00 ★
- ★ All other orders over £15 add £1.50 ★
- ★ All orders under £15 add £0.50 ★
- ★ Bait ingredients see Post & Packing
- ★ 3 day Securicon Service £6.00 ★
- ★ ★ ★ ★ ★





BROWNING®

reels for winners



504 Super Light Graphite Reel
With dual bail system. Gear ratio: 5-2/1
Four main shaft support bearings. Brass
pinion gear. Reversible left/right hand
wind.



506 Ultra Light Graphite Reel
Gear ratio: 5-4/1. Steel ball bearings.
Left/right hand wind.



510 Light Graphite Reel
Gear ratio: 5-4/1. Steel ball bearings
Left/right hand wind.



512 Intermediate Graphite Reel
Gear ratio: 4-9/1. Steel ball bearings
Left/right hand wind



810 Match Medium Graphite Reel
Graphite body, spool and rotating head.
Fast 5-4/1 gear ratio. All brass gears. Three
stainless steel ball bearings. Reversible
left/right hand wind.

Eight series features:

- * Good line lay
- * Graphite body
- * Wide spool
- * 3 Stainless steel bearings
- * Solid brass gears



810 HS

812 HS

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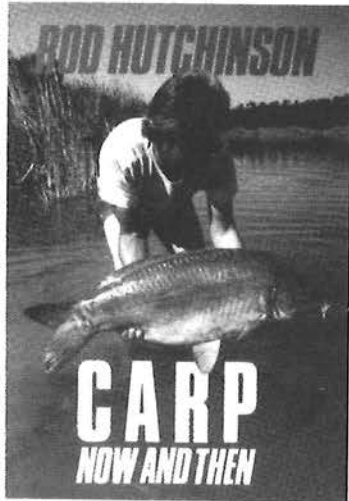


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BOOKSHELF will be a regular feature, covering all books concerning carp fishing – in full or in part. We won't be concentrating solely on new books in every issue, but for this first article we will concentrate on the new books that have hit the market over the last few months, because there are a few of them.

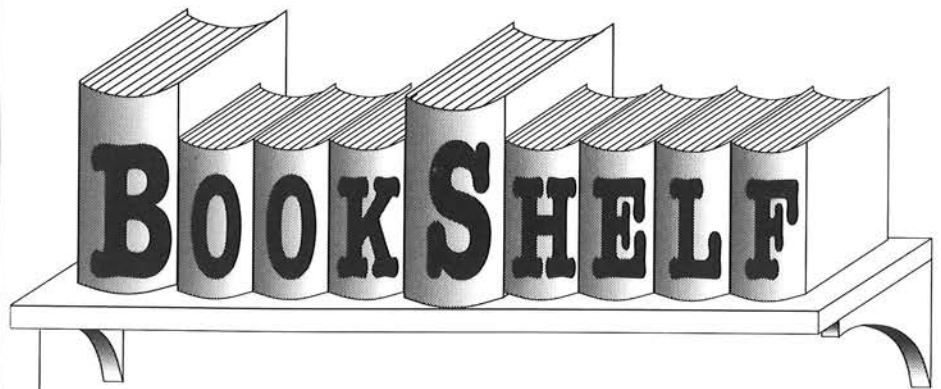


Rod's third book, and the biggest carp book to hit the market for some time: in fact this is probably the biggest carp book yet to be published at 120,000 words plus. This is two books in one. Rod's original book was published in 1980, but it was a less than satisfactory production of some terrific material, and the print run was a limited one. The boom in carp fishing has resulted in a great many of today's carp anglers being unable to get hold of copies of the original book, so Rod has incorporated it in the latest publication – hence the title, *Carp Now and Then*.

To some it will be a disappointment that the book contains material that has been published before, particularly those who own the original volume. To a great many others, *Carp Now and Then* will be a treasure trove of information, tales and humour, and I think the greater percentage of the carp fishing readership will fall into the latter category.

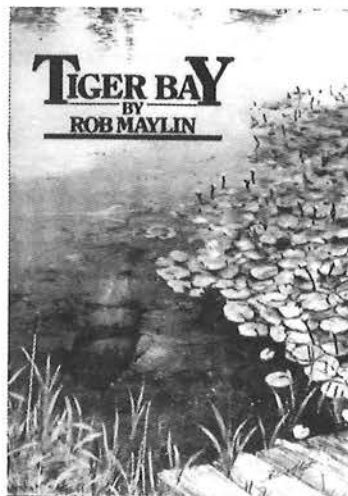
A carp book of over 100,000 words, with all those drawings, diagrams, pictures and, more importantly, thousands of words of Rod's philosophies and thoughts has got to be a must for all thinking carp anglers and collectors of carp fishing literature.

The book contains contributions from Chris Yates and Tim Paisley and represents terrific value for money. The only criticism is that again the production has left something to be desired. Not in the sense that the original Rod Hutchinson's *Carp Book* tended to fall to pieces, but in the sense that a very big book has been made to look like a small one. Format is A5, which is inadequate for a book of this stature, and the result is that the print is on the small side and makes an otherwise marvellous read slightly hard work. Don't be put off by that minor drawback. This is a hell of a book and there's something in there for everyone.



I've not met Rob Maylin but I'm told he's a smashing bloke, other than when he's had a few drinks! We've all got more than one side to our characters, but the dark side of the coin is usually best kept hidden from curious eyes and ears. Presumably because of the atmosphere in which Rob fishes, he has decided that for the purposes of this book there is little point in hiding the dark side of anything. As a result the book will offend a great many of the people it was supposed to please.

That's a shame because Rob is one of our best carp fishing writers, and he has clearly had some very successful seasons on the pits of the Colne Valley. The book reveals the details of the catches, and the baits and methods responsible for them.



There are nice contributions by Colne Valley regulars Lee Jackson, Steve Allcott, Kerry Barringer, Phil Harper, Roger Smith and Martin Locke. Martin's chapter in particular is a very enjoyable piece of writing.

I feel sad about this book, because it should have been an outstanding work: instead, I find it unreadable. It is on my bookshelf because I collect carp angling books.

I think I should also add that almost everyone I have spoken to about the book enjoyed it. Perhaps my reservations are founded on a deep rooted dismay at the damage done to the image of carp fishing by the social carp anglers – and the fact that this volume may adversely influence those who are eager to find heroes whose actions justify their own malpractices.

TALES OF A Coarse Angler



David Plummer

In some ways, this is a slightly strange book, but it is also a very, very good one. I don't think that Dave considers himself to be a writer so he enlisted the help of Vic Bellars to brush up the prose. The parts of the book that are clearly Dave Plummer I like very much: pages of down-to-earth Plummer common sense and angling observation. In other areas the text appears to be all Vic, and in these pages I felt uncomfortable. The first few pages of the lengthy carp fishing section are a case in point: I wanted to be reading Dave but I was actually reading a rather flowery history of carp fishing by Vic. Anyone who knows Dave knows bloody well that he'd never use a word like "circumlocutory"!

That's the only complaint out of the way, and I found this one of the best reads of the many angling books to appear over the last few years. That is fitting because I think Dave is outstanding in the field of specialist angling, as his exceptional record with most coarse species shows. Happily Dave doesn't talk statistics: he doesn't have to. His chapter on pike fishing glued me to the page, as did the carp section. I can't really explain the observation but I was very pleasantly surprised by this book.

Also available now are books by Andy Little and Kevin Nash. These will be reviewed in our next look at books.



TIM PAISLEY

CARP Fishing hit the scene at the same time as two other major releases by illustrious carp fishing authors, but it more than holds its own in the company of the other two.

Tim Paisley has put together a book which is of interest to both beginner and experienced carp man alike, and it is written in his usual clear, concise way tinged, with that wickedly dry "Paisley" humour.

The title "Carp Fishing" is such an all-embracing one that I suspect it could have ended up three times as long – more a case of what to leave out, rather than what

to put in – but he seems to have got the formula right because he manages to cover most aspects of the game without dwelling overlong on any one.

The bait buffs may have been disappointed at the length of the bait chapter; but again this subject could probably run to a full book in its own right. Tim confines himself to condensing his whole outlook on bait into a few pages which must have been no mean feat!

One thing that did come across from the book was that the problems encountered by Tim and co-contributors were for the most part solved by the application of logic and common sense – a thing that people have no trouble in applying to everyday life but seem to hit a mental block with when it comes to fishing.

Brian Skoyles' chapter particularly impressed – a case of a bloke who likes to fish a method and hones it down to as near perfect as he can get – and there are fewer more exciting areas of carp fishing than the one Brian revels in.

The illustrations by Brian Naylor are very good, especially the Yatesy one, and generally the book is presented in a very pleasant and readable manner. The only gripe is that some of the black and white photographs are quite poor quality which surprises me as I've seen the originals and they are very good.

All in all a very good read, well worth a place on any carp man's bookshelf and very good value at the price.

AVAILABILITY OF BOOKS

THE books reviewed here are available as follows:

CARP NOW AND THEN *Rod Hutchinson*

Available from Wonderdog Publishers, as advertised on page 27. Shortly to be available through tackle shops, price £18.95 plus £1 p.&p.

TIGER BAY *Rob Maylin*

Available as advertised within these pages or from Beekay Publishing, Withy Pool, Henlow, Beds.

TALES OF A COARSE ANGLER *Dave Plummer*

Through book and tackle shops. Autographed copies from Dave at Norwich Angling Centre, Sprowston Road, Norwich, Norfolk, price £14.95 plus £1 p.&p.

CARP FISHING *Tim Paisley*

Through tackle and book shops or as advertised on page 29.

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BAIT IS A FOUR LETTER WORD

BAIT! Now there's a subject to get carpmen going. If ever a topic was more guaranteed to stiffen the sinews and summon up the blood it's bait. Go to the regional meetings or attend the conference; eavesdrop on any conversation at random, and I'll bet you a pound to a pinch that the main talking point is that ubiquitous four letter word. It seems as if carp anglers, more than any other group, are obsessed with bait to the exclusion of just about every other aspect of their sport. Buy why is this? Surely bait is only part of the picture. Isn't location more important? And once located, what about the presentation? . . . and then there's rigs! Yes, they're all important, but at the end of the day it's what goes on the hook that gets the most attention.

Now if you've taken those opening remarks as a criticism of the emphasis put on bait then think again, for I am a bait addict. I love talking, arguing and generally waffling on (as Rod Hutchinson puts it) about carp baits. I've run the gamut from breadflake to HNVs, from sweetcorn to tigers, and the like. Flavours, enhancers, aminos, organic acids, oils and appetite stimulators; I've been through the lot to the point where I ended up so confused I didn't know if I was coming or going. These articles outline my own involvement with carp and carp baits over the years to the point where I fetched up against the solid shore of belief in the effectiveness of one particular approach. It is a long and at times stormy journey, but is not meant to be in any way instructional or authoritative, but is meant as an entertainment first and foremost. If the articles help others in their thinking, then I'm glad but I'm no expert so don't go taking everything too seriously!

I started fishing a long time ago in round about nineteen forget it. By the time I was in my late teens I had caught the freshwater bug and in particular the dreaded disease of carp fever. This was the mid sixties and though the carp bug was spreading quickly there was still a dearth of decent information on carp captures and tactics. Seldom were the papers graced with accounts or pictures of carp, and the capture of a twenty was headline news. On the rare occasions when some lucky sod did catch one of

these leviathans, and was good enough to put the capture in the papers, the details were pored over and dissected for every available scrap of information. I was a carp fishing apprentice, but at least I was living in Kent and there is surely no better place to serve one's apprenticeship than in the hotbed of carp angling.

At the time I was quite happy with my results but then a few guys began to be much more successful than others, and they were fishing bottom baits with the new fangled "specials". Rumours had been leaking out from the depths of darkest Kent of all manner of wierd and wonderful baits. Everybody seemed to be

Ken Townley

The early trips were to Caesar's Pool, and were remarkable purely for their futility. I knew there were big carp in there; from time to time I even saw one on the bank, but never in my landing net. At the time it was guys like Johnny Affleck and his Bromley friends who caught: mostly on worm, and rarely at that. Still, at least they caught. I just sat there day after day watching my lines drooping motionless into the creepy dark depths of the pool, thankful that when a carp was caught I was at least there to see it and renew my enthusiasm. Really the place was far too hard for me to cut my teeth on and I moved onto easier waters in the county and across the border in Surrey.

1968 – a watershed in my burgeoning carp fishing progress. I caught my first double figure carp from Cut Mill. It took floating crust which seemed to be THE method at the time. Everybody was on it fishing a tethered rust in the middle (or as far as they could chuck it). In consequence, most of the anglers were fishing a corridor about twenty yards wide in the middle of the pool. I could only cast twenty yards anyway so my solitary crust sitting alone and forlorn in the margins was seldom taken. However, when a carp did come in close (usually on the quieter days) they generally took my offering without pause; they had no suspicion of a bait in so close, whereas they had already good cause for suspicion of the crusts out in the middle.

talking about them, but nobody knew what they were! The secrecy behind these early paste baits was astonishing, but gradually the grapevine produced a trickle of detail, that soon became a flood as the word got round. These were the days of sausage and Kit-e-Kat, Nesquick or Complan: anything had to be better than floating crust.

My first special was the tinned cat food mixed with Pomenteg groundbait and plain flour. It was a right wind up to mix but was well worth the trouble for it was instant. Overnight the crusts disappeared (the carp must have wondered about that) and freelined or ledgered bottom baits were "in". I was a Kent man good and true. Rods set up on four feet high rests fishing long drops to bottle top indicators. You had to strike at the twitches of course, or maybe pull it back to induce a take. The baits were good for perhaps an hour or two before they started breaking up and recasting was a major event. Often you'd get takes within the first few minutes of the new cast but I was too thick to figure out why.

Tinned Cat Food mixed with Pomenteg groundbait and plain flour. These were the days of Kit-e-Kat, Nesquick and Complan

The follow-on baits were the tinned dog foods and tinned fish. I used sardines for a while and had moderate success on them. But now everyone was on a "special" of some sort or other and the novelty was wearing off. The carp were getting more and more cagey. Then I "discovered" luncheon meat and thought I'd put all my troubles behind me. The popularity of the meat spread like wildfire. It was really the business and for a while things were grand.

By the early seventies the boom in carp fishing meant more and more pressure on the fish and on the waters that I was fishing. In fact it all got too much for me and I packed it in in '72 in favour of sea fishing, and later barbel bashing on the Avon and Stour. I thus missed out on what was certainly the most exciting and innovative period in modern carp fishing bait development. By the time I came back to the fold in '79 things had really changed. The Wilton principle was firmly established and was emptying lakes all over the country, changing the face of carp fishing and incidentally, carp waters for ever. The particle revolution had arrived thanks to the Redmire exploits of Chris Yates and his tin of sweetcorn, and his partner in crime, Rod Hutchinson and his walls of hemp. Now any carpman worth his salt carried numerous sacks of various seeds and pulses around with him, and in fact, it was the wonderful black-eyed beans that brought me back into the game with a vengeance.

My old mate Bill Speed put me onto a syndicate water he was a member of in the West Country. We met up for a trip there and over a pint in the local he finally made me realise how much I'd missed during my self-imposed exile from the carp world. He mentioned flavours and various ingredients, aminos, Black Majic, Slyme. These had all come along, been developed and refined and put into use with devastating effect . . . and I'd missed them all.

I set about reading all the back issues of "Angling" magazine looking out for anything on carp and carp tactics: the articles that I'd just skipped through over the past few years. Eustace, Sharman, Hutchinson: I couldn't read enough of their stuff. Rod's particle pieces had stirred the imagination and I went up to the syndicate water on black-eyes. They worked a treat and I guessed that nobody had tried the particle approach on the water at all. In three months I caught eighty fish from the water and was completely hooked on carp angling again. The water was deep and gin clear: the lake quiet, peaceful and lovely. It was my own private Beechmere. It was easy fishing. You baited several spots in the margins close to cover, and visited them in turn until feeding fish were spotted. The fish loved the beans and were often on the carpet within minutes. Then it was a simple matter to lower a couple of beans on a size 4 Au Lion D'or or 1540 spade end down amongst the feeding fish. The trick was to make sure your hookbait was positioned off to one side of the main carpet and to keep your eyes glued on it.

Tinned Dog Foods, tinned Fish, then Luncheon Meat

Then when a carp came along and sucked it up you just lifted into him and you were away. Pretty simple, but I tell you it doesn't half get the old heart racing when you see a good fish approach the hookbait.

Sadly I got into a silly disagreement with the syndicate leader. To this day I've no idea what my crime was. Perhaps it was catching too many fish! If he's reading this and feels like letting me in on the story I'll be all ears. Anyway, I came out and lost the easiest, most obliging fish, and the most exciting and rewarding fishing. It was time to fish other waters.

We'd moved to Cornwall in '74 and the local clubs didn't exactly encourage carp angling, but eventually I found some good waters belonging to Roche AC and in particular a lovely pool called Wheal Rashleigh. It was reputed to hold doubles and even a couple of twenties, but a recent stocking with a reported 2,000 small carp meant that it would not be easy to sort out the better fish. This was early '81 and though I knew about the flavours and so on I didn't think to use them. I went in at first on a simple trout pellet mix fishing it as a paste, but blanked completely on it. I wondered what I was doing wrong. Here I was on a water teeming with fish and getting no action whatsoever. I met up with Bill again for a trip to one of his waters and the guy took pity on me and gave me the hair and the birdfood baits, and in particular Robin Red. I say in particular because, quite honestly, it changed my life.

The red stuff became my edge: of that I'm quite certain. Nobody else in my area was on it and I could take it anywhere and catch. It changed my life because I became an addict. It became an obsession that has stayed with me ever since.

The basic bait was a stunningly simple one being 6oz Nectarblend, 2oz Robin Red and 2oz Gluten. Flavour was optional at 5mls. Once they caught onto the bait they just kept on having it! Granted, you had to give it a bit of thought in terms of location and presentation, but the bait was a winner. It has to be said that I was lucky in probably being the first onto the pool with the rig/boiled bait approach, but for all that it was the bait that was the great leveller.

***Stunningly simple:
6oz Nectarblend
2oz Robin Red
2oz Gluten
Flavour was optional***

I did use a flavour in fact – Rod's Banana. I've never been much of a one for flavour switching and have found that the trick is to keep the level low and the base mix consistent and they'll keep on having it. There's a chap I know who is reasonably successful, but I don't think he uses the same flavour two trips running. He must have over 200 flavours in his cupboard that he's collected over the years and many have only got a few mils out of them. I stuck with the Banana right through early and mid '81, mostly on Salamander Lake. This is a private lake



1981 and Ken with the Rashleigh biggie at 19.02

that holds mostly doubles and low twenties (though the top resident has made it to 27 these days). I'm sure I was the first to show the Salamander fish a boiled bait and the Robin Red just slaughtered them. It was absolutely instant.

To digress a minute –

I've heard it discussed that carp need to be weaned onto boilies if they've never seen them before. I find this hard to believe. A carp will investigate anything it thinks might be edible. Indeed, its whole olfactory system is geared to receiving messages from its environment saying "this is grub . . . eat it." The bait I was on, be it the flavour or the ingredients, or both, spelt out FOOD in great big capital letters and the carp responded accordingly. There has been much speculation on the reasons for Robin Red's success. The carophyll content is certainly an important factor, but to me the natural spices and peppers are just as important. I've used it both as a paste and in a boiled bait, both with and without flavours, and though it seems more effective as an unflavoured paste, when used as a flavoured boilie it can be startling in its effectiveness.

Anyway, back on the lake, and I went back to Rashleigh. It wasn't that I was getting blasé about the Salamander fish but they were ridiculously easy after initial groundwork had revealed their feeding habits. The hair helped of course, but I wondered if I'd have enjoyed similar success using the old trout pellet bait rather than the birdfood base. For Rashleigh I changed the bait for the first time. I switched to PTX as the main ingredient together with a terrific Cinnamon flavour, again from Rod, along with 5 mils of Hermesetas sweetener. I wanted a dense, sweet, hard bait for Rashleigh and made them up big to try and sort out the bigger fish. My first trip produced a personal best common (twice), and eight other fish in a short day trip. My wife Carole started fishing with me then and she too was quickly into fish, taking a double on her first visit. We just couldn't go wrong. They just kept on coming and nobody could get near to us. I really don't know how many fish we landed in late '81 through to the Autumn of '82. It must have been well into the hundreds, but we only kept records of the doubles. We had over sixty of them from Rashleigh alone, but we were getting so many repeats! We had old busted tail, the biggest fish in there, six times; the best common came out on seven occasions, while Carole's double ended up falling for the same bait no less than a dozen times. So if you ever wonder why I keep going on about Robin Red in my articles, perhaps you'll understand now.

Though the Rashleigh fish were certainly a naive bunch, they didn't take long to wise up to the rigs and presentations. I wanted to try out a bait that I knew had not been used in there before, as a lot of anglers were now on the water and using boilies after seeing our success on them. Things did start to slow down a bit by the middle of the year. I was sure we could keep one jump ahead



Carole Townley with her first double – Rashleigh, 1982.

by switching to jelly baits, and indeed once we'd changed over our catch rate soared again. Once more simplicity was the watchword. We used a straightforward 80/20 PTX/Robin Red base, which was added to two sachets of gelatin, dissolved in 1.5 pints of milk, with 3 mils of the Cinnamon flavour and 5 mils of liquid Hermesetas. Once the jelly had set, the resulting mat was cubed into small luncheon meat type pieces, and fished on a standard bolt hair with a backstop. Though the basic ingredients and flavouring was identical to those we'd used in the boiled bait, the change in shape and texture proved deadly and the summer and autumn months of '82 were brilliant.

***JELLY BAIT:
80/20 PTX/Robin Red
& 2 Sachets of Gelatin
dissolved in 1.5 pints of milk,
3 mils of Cinnamon flavour
and 5 mils of Liquid
Hermesetas. Let the jelly set,
then cut into cubes***

It was all very well having success on the relatively unpressured club waters: we were well ahead of the game there, but we wanted to put ourselves up against it by fishing harder waters for wiser carp. The confidence was working overtime by now and Bill and I arranged to meet up at Waveney in the October for a week on the complex. Bill had been using a Nectarblend/Robin Red/Casilan base all year and had done well on a Cheese flavour, and this was the combination we decided to use for Waveney. We'd hoped to fish D but of course it was stitched up by the Kent Mafia in those days and you couldn't get on the front for love nor money. (It turned out that the Kent boys had been using a R.R. base on the complex which might have had something to do with our results!). We started off on C and had a couple out from the corner to a boilie over particles, but only stayed on there for a few days, as a couple of swims came free on E lake and we dived in there P.D.Q.

We both fished long across to the willow using the Cheese at 3 mils and were blessed with a marvellous five days fishing. I know we caught a lot of fish but I can't really remember it all that well. The mere details have been blotted from my memory simply by Bill's capture of a mirror of 27.12 and then the leather at 31.4 – both on the same night! He also



Bill Speed with The Waveney D/E Lake Leather at 31.04.



Ken with a Salamander Lake 20-plus caught in 1982 on the Robin Red/Cinnamon combination. (Rod's ORIGINAL Cinnamon flavour.)

lost another huge fish under the tip after playing it across and avoiding the willow that used to grace the fishing bank in those days. It was the first time I'd ever seen a thirty in the flesh and the capture of these two beautiful fish dominates my memory of the trip to this day. That leather . . . what a fish! (There is in fact a hazy recollection that we had something like 20 fish for the trip. Does that sound about right to you, Bill? I can remember shooting off for a quick shower during what we'd thought was a quiet period in the middle of the afternoon. While I was away you had three out, you jammy sod. You, like the gent you are, insisted I should have the next run on your rods to make up for it. The fish went about four pounds if memory served me well!).

We came back from Waveney and returned to Rashleigh. The bait had gone so well up there that it was an obvious choice for the local pool. Apparently the place had been fishing like a pudding for the past couple of weeks. I went in a new swim and decided on a crafty change of tactics. I put the bait on the hook! (shock, horror, scare!). This must have totally confused the fish for I had five doubles out in a short day. The Cheese flavour was absolutely instant and I think the Casilan certainly improved the quality of the base mix.

Casilan certainly improved the quality of the base mix

I feel that our results on the birdfood baits must prove that they can be thought of as an effective medium term bait. You'll notice I didn't say long term there (by which I mean, say, two years or more). Certainly on the hungry waters they'll be effective over a longer period, than on really rich waters such as College. There were obviously too many carp in Rashleigh competing for insufficient natural food. The Robin Red baits, being a nutritionally valid high fat bait were a natural source of energy and this could have a lot to do with their long life on the water. I know we were on unpressured, and at first, little fished waters: yes, we were the first on the hair down here, and I'd be the first to admit that these factors played a significant part in our success, but you'll have a hard job convincing me that the crucial element wasn't the bait. I had so much faith in the red stuff that I couldn't wait to find another water where it hadn't been used before. Did any still exist? Well yes, but that's another story.


Things were changing. There were more carp anglers around with each new season and the pressure was telling. I wanted to spread my wings a bit and try a new approach. College . . . Tim Paisley and his effect on my sanity . . . enzymes, aminos HNVs . . . they were all just around the corner and I'll bore you with them next time.

Regular contributor Ken will be back with more bait talk in the next Carpworld.

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A brand new product on the market, and a brilliant one. This is the best sweet appetite stimulator/sweetener/taste enhancer we have yet to try. Field tested by some of our star testers – who are full of praise for it. 2 mls as the main smell; 1/2-1 mls as back up to an oil or flavour. Cast out, hold the rod, send us the pics.

NUTRABAITS NEWS

HI-NU-VAL has been a case of first the good news, now the bad. The good news was that it was consistently catching carp from some very difficult waters. The bad news was that a handful of anglers found themselves with mixes that floated. This was either down to boiling the baits for too long, or an uneven distribution of the ingredients in the mix (which is professionally done). Then we got the really bad news: the casein we used in the second bulk mix turned out to be water soluble, which rendered the mix useless. All should be sweetness and light and fish on the bank again by now, but apologies to those of you who suffered for our difficulties. Our bank manager wasn't over-impressed either.

Results on the baits have been terrific and we have had problems gearing ourselves to meet the unexpectedly high demand for some of our products. ENER-VITE is proving as popular as we anticipated. We have had comments that ENER-VITE baits break up quicker than people like them to, but this is a characteristic of most high fat baits. Adding a bit more caseinate and some gluten might bind the bait over a longer period, but the fact that the bait gradually breaks up does add to its effectiveness.

Our regular field testers have more confidence in our baits than first season users, and this is reflected in results. Brian Skoyles, Julian Cundiff, Ken Townley and some of their friends are scoring very consistently and have already accounted for a number of 20+ fish this season. Ken's been testing the Spanish Thyme Oil for us and confirms the best level as being 2-4 drops. His results on the oil have been stunning. He's using a different attractor on Savay, and had two 20+ fish on his second four day session there. Julian had a run of 4 successive twenties on his HI-NU-VAL + Addits + Essential Oil bait, and Brian has had similar success on the same water with a slightly modified base and a different

attractor.

By popular demand we've added Iso-eugenol to our products. We have no field testing results on this oil but we are told that half to one ml is about right in a long term bait – and that it can be quite instant at that level.

Strange how different parts of the country latch onto different oils. We can't keep up with the demand for Black Pepper in the North west after Brian Garner's brilliant winter on Hawkstone using the oil, but southern anglers don't seem to have twigged it yet. Similarly with the superb Bergamot and Nutmeg Special oils, and Ken Townley's favourite – Clove Terpenes. (The terpenes version of the oil is very different from the straight oil, incidentally, in smell, chemical composition – and reaction from the carp.)

We've no feedback on Spearmint Oil yet, but all the others are working well. We weren't certain about the Mexican Onion Oil level but we are told that two drops seems to be right for long term results. We've got two very competent field-testers on this oil and they are scoring with it – one in ENER-VITE, and the other in a protein base.

Watch the weeklies for news of Nutrabait users' progress. In last week's Anglers Mail our additives had accounted for 2 good thirties and a Brian Skoyles twenty. That is the tip of the iceberg, because there is a limit to how many big carp pictures the weeklies can print. Both our base mixes are scoring very successfully, and considering how small our percentage of the market must be at present (this is our first full year), the list of 20+ fish, our baits and additives are helping catch is astounding.

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Profumo FILE



A LOCAL northern wag visiting the hallowed Savay Lake was heard to comment: "Thad expect more action on the Marie Celeste than on the banks of Savay between 8 and 11pm." Apparently everyone was fishing, but no one was to be seen – "know what I mean, Harry?" One of the few waters able to be fished by car phone.

☆ ☆ ☆

While on that subject, southern superstar Martin Locke feels he is being unjustly persecuted over the capture of the famous Sally on the first morning of last season. Martin wants it made clear that he went to the Tina Turner concert, THEN caught Sally: this was not a simultaneous occurrence as some uncharitable tongues have suggested. It's tough at the top, Lockie; just ignore them.

☆ ☆ ☆

More southern news . . . and this time it focusses on the London based TWA. They recently topped a Gallup Poll surveying mindless thuggery. TWA polled 55% of the votes, well ahead of "The Millwall Razor Crew", "The Leeds Utd, OK, Kick You to Death" crew and the Sixties Kray Consortium. There's a moral here for southern anglers – "Don't get gay with TWA".

☆ ☆ ☆

Latest in the Dellareed versus the world case is that the Kent based legal eagles are taking a group of Basildon housewives to court for excessive use of rollers in their hair . . .

☆ ☆ ☆

Licenses for Redmire came under discussion at the July Carp Society Steering Committee meeting. There was some confusion as to just which Water Authority rules the Redmire Roost, how many rods could be legally fished there, etc. A couple of the committee members sitting at the table couldn't shed any further light on the matter, when asked, because they hadn't got the necessary licences. Funny . . . they'd spent the first four days of the season fishing the water! No names, but if you really want to know have a look back at the Angling Times for June and July . . .

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Can we make it clear that The Profumo File is a pseudonym for a group of contributors and makes no reference to anyone of that name. As the contributors are anonymous you will have to phone/write to the editor and any publishable pieces will be passed on to the nameless ones – who are situated in Hereford, the North West, the Home Counties and various other strategic locations.

Contributors: The Lounge Lizard, Matthew Black, Deepocket, Deepthroat, Deepwallet, The Stoke Mafia, Carp Angling Grapevine PLC, Springwell Enterprises, Untrue Rumours Incorporated, The Essex Elite, The Longfield Drinking Club (no problem).

Several young up-and-coming carp anglers recently asked me a question of some import. What is the most up-to-date list of venues that carp can be caught from in order for them to count? And what is the maximum distance an angler can be away from his rods for his capture to count? The answer to the first question had to be "Phone Rod up"; only he has the current list, but it changes by the day. Take the average of 20 days and multiply it by whichever side of the bed he vacated etc. The second part of the question was simpler; apparently the distance according to the Cottage Bay Team is the same as it ever was – 25 miles. It should be understood that this figure is the acceptable norm, although there have been some exceptional captures from much greater distances than that.

☆ ☆ ☆

The trouble with banning anglers is that someone else finishes up with them. So the banning of the errant Darenth anglers by courageous Leisure Sport was more than offset by the arrival of the banned Savay Six on Fox Pool, a move which filled the Fox Pool regulars with joy. Twenty eight anglers for half a dozen going swims is a bit heavy, particularly on a water where "going" is strictly comparative.

☆ ☆ ☆

Whisper is that the Sevenoaks brethren aren't over-keen on Tri-cast Ted's boat baiting campaign. We can imagine Ted being impressed!

A reliable source informs us that Darenth Paul has managed to obtain some water in Holland and intends going across there to run same. The lads are having a whip round for his fare . . . Why is this lad still being allowed to fish Leisure Sport waters with his track record? Could the simple answer be nepotism?

☆ ☆ ☆

Latest from the ever-widening trap of Wolverhampton's likeable-when-sober Stevie Allmouth . . . Fox Pool was raided by the increasingly alert Early Hours LS Hit Team, headed by the amiable Jack Ashford. The usual ruck and potentially ugly scene followed while the returning non-attendant anglers argued their version of the rules to drink and fish by. Happily there were no rods fishing during the Happy Few Hours, so compromise was reached by means of a month's ban for the errant seven. We are reliably informed by sources close to The Mouth that Super Stevie is putting it about that Editor Tim was responsible for the raid in the first place. He wasn't, but the Carp Anglers' Grapevine doesn't let the facts get in the way when it wants to start spreading filth . . .

☆ ☆ ☆

What is happening in the Hitchin area of the angling world? This is the birthplace of specialist angling, but currently it is rumoured to be the scene of some strange comings and goings. Is the fish stealing sub-culture really as bad as rumour suggests it is? Word is that it is and that feeling is running high enough for people to stand up and be counted. There are some illustrious names in the frame on the fish nicking front, but will we get to know more about it all? There was a strong hint in the Carp Society's newsletter Cyprinews that we will, but was there really an illegal netting of Claydon? Are the rumours about the movement of the Dairy Farm fish true? The pictures suggest they are; Abberton pike? Woburn cats? Layers' fish? Chances are that if a big fish water opens up there are – er, fish that belong elsewhere in it. Of course the owners are probably as outraged as the rest of the carp world about these unwanted fish movements. If you've got a water with

specimen fish in it, guard them; NOTHING is sacred, and it seems as if the only way to bring the organised crime of fish movement to a halt is to reveal all. We will be doing our best, but it's not pretty.

✧ ✧ ✧

Friends of Fred J. will be sorry to hear that our man about the globe had a bad heart attack while he was in America recently. He's OK now, and taking it a bit steadier, but the doctor has insisted that he keeps taking his afternoon drop of the hard stuff – purely for medicinal purposes. Fred would like to make the point that he had the world exclusive on the Carp Society Redmire takeover – in Mail on Sunday.

✧ ✧ ✧

Talking about the weeklies, which we were about to, they can get themselves in a mess at times with their insistence on the use of superlatives to describe the ordinary, or slightly out of the ordinary. Angling Times published a couple of extracts from Tiger Bay, and in their rush to elevate the author to some height their thesaurus hadn't previously scaled, they had him pegged as a carp fishing GENIUS! How on earth do you cap that?

Poor (wrong word), old (another wrong word) Gob (not the wrong word) Hales, writing the following week, was relegated to the status of mere "expert" in his build up. Rumours that Rob changed his mind about writing a slashing attack on protein baits because he was about to be sponsored by a bait firm were not true. Lovable Des tempered his need for something sensational and suggested that the Midlands wonderboy restrict his activities to catching carp, which he is undoubtedly good at, for the moment, and set about getting himself universally liked before he starts upsetting people. Once you're liked, people will forgive you anything – even catching carp. For the record, we like Rob, so any references to him in this column are purely good-natured . . . anyone who gets invited into a water by Brian Garner and Depthroat, gets given a blown bait to keep him quiet, then stuffs Garner (and the editor, but that might not get into print) has got to be golden.

✧ ✧ ✧

While on the subject, congratulations to Mark Williams of Angling Times for the first of his Redmire features. It was refreshing to see some angling literature in an angling weekly.

✧ ✧ ✧

Richard Skid's Rotherham Rogues are looking for "hard" waters this year after turning over Big Wraysbury on their first trip. Rich, a newly recruited Carp Society regional organiser, was asked to explain the secret of the Rogues' success. "It wah easy," he said, "even tha'd uh gorrem." Surely not THAT easy!

We read in the press that grief-stricken Clive Deidrich finally gave up on his Redmire dream because of the fear of Springviraemia. Strange how the manifestation of this fear coincided with the rent being overdue. Clive's insistence that everyone will get their money back is reassuring, and of course we believe him, but as there are hundreds of unfulfilled carp men out there who haven't fished the water we can't help but feel that it would have been cheaper for Clive to pay the rent for another couple of years than pay all those unfortunates back. In the meantime, Clive is trying to get another bait business off the ground. Good luck, pal; you're due a break, what with the wretched timing of the Springviraemia outbreak and all these insensitive people trying to get money out of you just when you're being heartbroken . . .

✧ ✧ ✧

Funny how all these people who keep advocating soya and semolina as a bait keep sticking anything from fifty to a hundred mils of Minamino, Aquamino or Sense Appeal (which is not dissimilar) in there. The fact that they finish up with a higher protein bait than a protein one seems to be lost on them.

✧ ✧ ✧

. . . Spotted recently shopping in Sainsbury's . . . two people who have yet to write a book on carp fishing . . .

✧ ✧ ✧

The usual welter of distorted weights in the weeklies over the first couple of weeks of the season . . . we can understand fish under 32lb being 8lbs out, because that's a straight Avons job, but how come we keep getting these fictional weights for fish in excess of 32lb? We haven't a clue, but they seem to be good for business, so we'll keep getting them. It's harmless compared to fish nicking and leaving the baits out . . .

. . . Talking of which, it was sad to see a pub fish in Martin Kowal's latest catalogue. Not Martin's fault, but fish that are wound in in the early hours after hanging themselves up during pub hours are best kept under wraps. People do talk, and we do know an awful lot about what goes on, and where. No more pub or disco fish in print please, lads; we'd hate to have to start naming names.

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I've just finished reading Rob Maylin's "Tiger Bay": a very interesting book, though not really one for the intellectual carp man. I mean, half way through I found myself behind a bush at the bottom of the garden. Some books inspire an angler to sally forth to the nearest carp pool to fish; this one just makes you want to shit. Well done, Rob, for achieving the latter!

While we're on the subject of toilet humour, the significance of the Looney Rota Farting Contest, odiously described in the Savay Year Book, Tiger Bay, was lost on a great many people. The Contest was actually an attempt to salvage an intelligent remark out of a week's frinking and dishing at the great water.

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"Well Known Angling Facts Ltd." reliably inform me that Ritchie Macdonald moulds himself on Don Johnson of Miami Vice, Rod Hutchinson moulds himself on American film megastar Steve Martin (a Man with Two Brains fame), Roger "Five Star" Smith moulds himself on a man with half a brain, and Carp Society Secretary Baz Griffiths moulds himself on a number two hook before fishing himself "popped-up" over a bed of tigers every night before he goes to bed!

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Was that a misprint in the Penge Angling ad earlier this year? It read "In Pursuit of Carp and Catfish" by Kevin Maddocks, £99.00 leather bound edition. If it isn't a misprint it's a joke . . . 99 quid, I can't Christmas Eve it, whatever the quality. It's a good job some bright spark hasn't thought of leatherbound edition packets of Mates condoms; some friends of mine would have to consider working for a living again.

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The carp scene isn't all bad, and good deed for the month of June was performed by brick shithouse Ian Hill, who rescued two young anglers from drowning at Broadlands Lake. Ian is joint regional organiser for the Carp Society's Colne Valley region – with Dougal Gray. Now there's a couple of likely lads.

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Talking of likely lads, our favourite story of the last few years involves another fine specimen of manhood, the lovable but huge Kev Andrews. Some misguided carpman removed a carp from the Fox Pool front pond. The locals found out and Kev persuaded the misguided one to go and fish for the carp until he caught it, and bring it back. It's back in the Fox Pool front pond! A very persuasive lad, our Kev.

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Congratulations to Les Bamford, Len Arbery and Tim Paisley for successfully taking over Redmire on behalf of the Society. Let's hope there are still some fish left in there for Society members to pit their wits against.

□ □ □

A year's subscription for the best letter giving a truthful but publishable explanation of the nicknames of the contributors to Rob Maylin's book "Tiger Bay" . . .

The Selby Flier is up in arms about the "editing" of one of his Carp Catcher (CAA magazine – remember?) articles. He still wants to know why the sentence starting "Thanks to forward thinking anglers like Lenny Middleton and Kevin Maddocks . . ." made it into print without Lenny Middleton's name! While we're on the subject of Carp Catcher censorship, have you noticed that all the versions of the Wonderdog/Catchum adverts have been the same – apart from the April Carp Catcher advert? Those dreadful words "Tim Paisley" were not allowed to appear in Pete's publication. At least the advert appeared, which is more than can be said for the booked page and a half of Fox International advertisements. Surely that was nothing to do with the fact that Messrs. Fox and Maddocks are having a difference of opinion over bedchairs.

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We have it from a very reliable source that the Essex Mafia wasn't exactly overjoyed to have an unknown 40-plus common plucked from under its nose. Godfather Nashy was doubly miffed when the hitherto unknown plucker rang up suggesting some sponsorship . . . Nashy politely claimed he'd never heard of the angler, the fish, the water or Essex. How many unknown forties are there under our noses? Remember the Brandesburton unfished-for whacker that now fills Hull Kev's back garden pond? Has this fish stopped counting since Nev failed to catch it?

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A quick glance down south suggests that any day now we will be seeing banner headlines proclaiming "The first

angler to catch two different English forties". It's already been done, so don't fall for the hype when it does come flying your way. Forties from two different waters may still be a first, but we're not even sure about that . . .

□ □ □

They say that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. On the other hand plagiarism is literature's equivalent of treason! Our good friend David Hall will no doubt claim that this column is a straight crib from the birth child of his lurid imagination, so we'll just agree with him, apologise to him, and claim that this is flattering, and not plagiarising. In any case it will probably provide him with some useful material . . .

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Steven A. Jones, 16 Altrincham Road, Wilmslow. Tel: 0625 528831

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Penge Angling (Rayleigh), Arterial Road, Rayleigh. Tel: 0268 772331

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Fosters Tackle, 266 Kings Road, Kingstanding, Birmingham. Tel: 021-355 3333

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Trafford Angling Supplies, 34 Moss Road Stretford. Tel: 061-864 1211

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Middlesex Angling Centre, 1288 Greenford Road, Greenford. Tel: 01-422 8311

NORFOLK

Norwich Angling Centre, 476 Sprowston Road, Sprowston, Norwich. Tel: 0603 400757

OXFORD

J and K Tropicals, 8-9 Wesley Precinct, Bicester. Tel: 0869 242589

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Burgess Hill Angling Centre, 143 Church Road, Burgess Hill. Tel: 04446 2287

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Eric's Angling Centre, Wilfred Avenue, Leeds. Tel: 0532 646883

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MANCHESTER

Trafford Angling Centre, 34 Moss Road, Stretford, Manchester (061 864 1211)

NOTTINGHAM

Walkers of Trowell, Nottingham Road, Trowell, Nottingham (0602 301816)

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Norwich Angling, 476 Sprowston Road, Norwich, Norfolk (0603 400757)

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Shellons, 67 South Street, Stanground, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire (0733 65287)

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North West Angling Centre, 160 Market Street, Hindley, Nr. Wigan, Lancs. (0942 55993)

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Andy Barker Tackle, Unit 6, Omega Workshop, Parkside, Coventry (0203 51361)

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Fosters Tackle, 266 Kings Road, Kingstanding, Birmingham (021 355 3333)

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