

FRESHWATER INFORMER

Issue 337 - September 2025



**Free
Magazine**

**Logan Hutchingson
Continues to produce
some fantastic captures**

Julian Cundiff: Exclusive
for the Freshwater Informer
*Part 2 of an Unmissable Two-Part
Feature page 6*

Catch Up With:

Medway Man
Fishing Tail Films
The Friendly Fisherman
In The Edge With Alex
Jim's Journey
Freddy Joe Beany

URBAN

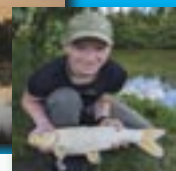


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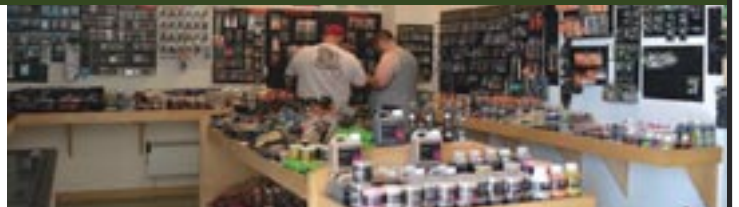
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Welcome to the August edition of The Freshwater Informer

With the summer sun still hanging around, the warm weather shows no signs of easing. In fact, it's getting to the stage where a few fisheries are practically doing a rain dance just to give their lakes a much-needed top-up and the fish some welcome relief.

This month we bring you the second part of Julian Cundiff's article – a fantastic piece packed with insight and advice for anyone who has ever thought about stepping into the angling industry. It's well worth a read.

Jim's Journey takes us to More House Farm Fishery this time, where we enjoyed some great sport and an equally enjoyable session on the bank.

Alongside that, we're delighted to introduce the newest fisherman to grace our pages – young Eli Knight, just one month old. Huge congratulations to Jordan and Mum. Keep him bankside and we're sure he'll do just fine in the years ahead!

As always, our regular writers have been out and about bringing you their unique takes and stories from the bank – and you'll only find them here in the Freshwater Informer.

As always, a massive thank you to every single one of you who reads, shares, and supports The Freshwater Informer. I'm working hard behind the scenes to grow the magazine and bring you even more great content in the months ahead.



If you've got a venue you think we should visit, or a story to share, don't hesitate to get in touch. Until next time tight lines and enjoy every second on the bank.



Have a great month, The FWI Team.

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The Freshwater Informer

email: info@freshwaterinformer.com

COPY DEADLINE for October 2025 Magazine
Friday 19th September 2025 at 5pm

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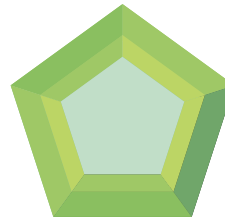
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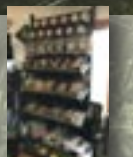


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2. ALL NETS, UNHOOKING MATS AND WEIGH SLINGS MUST BE DRY BEFORE DIPPING IN THE DISINFECTANT BATHS
3. NO NUTS OR PARTICLE
4. BOILIE AND PELLET ONLY FOR SPECIMEN AND BACK LAKE - ALL BAIT WILL BE INSPECTED
5. ALL FISH MUST BE RETURNED TO THE WATER AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE FOLLOWING CAPTURE. NO STANDING. FISH MUST BE HELD LOW OVER A MAT/CRADLE FOR PHOTOGRAPHS
6. MINIMUM 15LB LINE AND NO BRAIDED MAIN LINE
7. NO SACKING OR RETAINING OF FISH IS PERMITTED. THE REMOVAL OF FISH FROM THIS VENUE WILL BE VIEWED AS A CRIMINAL ACT
8. EACH ANGLER MUST HAVE A MINIMUM OF 42 INCH LANDING NET AND A LARGE PADDED UNHOOKING MAT/CRADLE REGARDLESS OF TARGET SPECIES ON SPECIMEN AND BACK LAKE
9. BARBLESS HOOKS ONLY
10. NO LEAD CORE, NO FUSED LEADERS OF ANY KIND INCLUDING SAFEZONE
11. NO FIXED LEAD RIGS. ALL LEADS MUST PASS FREELY OVER LEADER KNOTS. RIG CHECKS WILL BE CARRIED OUT
12. RECREATIONAL DRUGS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED - IMMEDIATE BAN FOLLOWS
13. PLEASE INFORM FISHERY MANAGEMENT OF ANY SNAGGED TACKLE OR FISH
14. ANY FISH OVER 28LB MUST BE REPORTED TO BAILIFF
15. NO DOGS ALLOWED
16. BARBECUES ALLOWED IF OFF THE GROUND
17. NO BAIT BOATS
18. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH ANY OF THE RULES WILL RESULT IN BEING ASKED TO LEAVE AND/OR BANS WHERE APPROPRIATE AND NO REFUND WILL BE OFFERED
19. TRICKLEBROOK IS NOW OPERATING A ZERO-TOLERANCE POLICY TO ANY ACTS OF AGGRESSION OR ABUSE TOWARDS ITS BAILIFFS AND STAFF
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 SUMMER 7AM - 7PM WINTER 7AM TO DUSK



Julian Cundiff

'The more things change...

The more they stay the same!

Part 2



Forty seven years later still in print

And welcome back and hopefully that look back at my angling in the seventies, eighties and nineties resonated with some of you and perhaps gave you some indication of the hard work I put in pre ' Practical Carp Fishing ' and my more mainstream (carp fishing wise) exposure thereafter? I'm putting this piece together before most of you will have seen part one and expressed your views publicly / privately so I hope it went down in the way I wanted it to be considered.

As I stated from the very start if you want to get involved then (certainly for the long term) it's important that you have a genuine love of fishing. Believe me if you don't there are lots more easier ways to make a living ! I would imagine that right at the start nobody goes fishing hoping to make a living from it and that it's just something that either ticks your box or more likely doesn't. I've NEVER wanted to make a living from it (and I LOVE carp fishing) but I always wanted to be in someway involved so hopefully this is something that resonates with some of you reading part two ? Of course you

can go straight in full time but the opportunities are somewhat limited and remuneration is generally average at best. Working in a tackle shop is one and with the popularity of brands like Angling Direct that's a great way in. Only this week I was Nash's representative at AD's Bradford Grand Opening and I spoke to two youngsters who worked for AD full time having started part time and loved it. You can of course be employed as a videographer, graphic designer etc but for the purposes of part two let's look at how to get your name out there which can lead to bigger and better things if that's what you want ? So my ' Top Ten Tips ' for getting involved 2025 onwards.

1. I know it's an obvious one, and perhaps understated but if you want to make a name it won't happen overnight so you need to enjoy your carp fishing and I mean really enjoy it. Even when my life's turned to **** at times (relationships / loss of parents / work stresses etc) carp fishing kept me sane so I kept doing it whilst my world felt like it was collapsing around me. Sometimes parts of carp fishing can really **** me off but because I enjoy it I can still keep delivering my efforts as a brand ambassador.

2. Go fishing regularly. I've often said (and will keep saying) " The hardest part of carp fishing is doing it ". When you watch YouTube, look on social media, check your fishing tackle out it looks easy until you have to go and do it week in week out, month in month out etc . Firms are looking for anglers who are consistently out there doing it. If you are (no disrespect intended) ' unknown ' the way to stand out is to be on the radar so often you cannot fail to be noticed. It is no good having a ' visual ' spring and then disappearing until the next one. Even relatively high profile anglers are not afforded that luxury.

3. Develop a thick skin. If you want to be everybody's friend then catch nowt, say nowt and don't stick your head above the parapet However if you try to make a name for yourself then get ready for the trolls. In my

day it was the locals to start with (who are you to write articles ?) then further afield (what's he ever caught ?). Luckily working at court meant I'd been called far worse so it generally bounced off me . If something is not true I find it can't hurt. We've all had it but that's the price of visibility.

4. Catch plenty of carp of all sizes. At one time you were (perhaps ?) rated / regarded dependant on what you'd caught . Nowadays with the availability of bigger carp to the masses it makes very little difference at all. It's the visibility the firms want and if you are regularly posting images / stories / interesting content every month you'll stand out. Even in the colder months it is possible to regularly catch so forget size as the silver bullet but consistency is. Mid doubles upwards sell tackle, bait and the like.

5. Be positive on social media (in life). The fishing industry is a pretty tight nit / small community and you can establish a bad reputation a lot quicker than you can build a positive one. Before you hit POST think and read it again. A good rule of thumb is if you haven't got something good to say then don't say it all. Digital footprints are there forever. The only time I will ever be in the slightest way negative or confrontational is if something untrue is said. A negative opinion ... nah who cares. You won't ingratiate yourself with one firm just be slagging another I promise you. *My rule of three is.*

- a) Is it necessary ?
- b) Is it true ?
- c) Is it kind ?

If not don't hit ' share ' Moaning, confrontation and unrequested opinions are the kiss of death.

6. Photograph everything There's nothing more boring than meaningless trophy shots ad nauseum and even the most high profile carp anglers will have a social media feed of scenic, tackle, life images along with their capture shots. When I first started fishing I was lucky in that my parents were always taking pictures (often to my embarrassment as a teenager) but now I have all those images 1976 to 1982 that they took before I got my Zeniths and basic Olympus's. Nowadays there is no excuse with mobile phones having quality cameras as part of the package . Ensure you record everything from your gear at home to travelling to venues to scenics to tackle and bait shots . To start with forget being artsy and just build up YOUR own library. The exact same situation will probably never happen again so record it and in time you'll be glad you did.

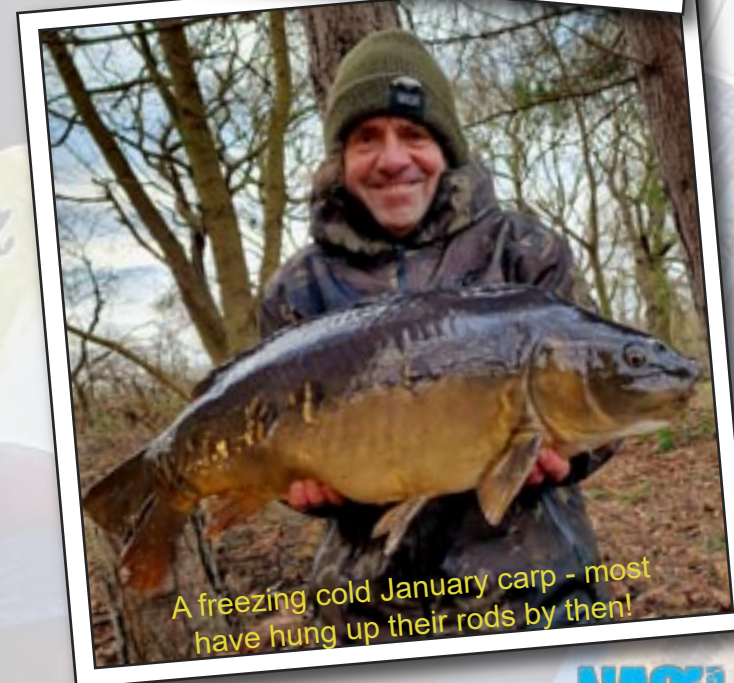
7. Ensure you can do your own self takes. In your formative years you may well fish with mates or at times / places where there is someone to take a trophy shot of you if need be. This won't always be the case



I attend everything - Representing Nash Tackle and Nashbait at Angling Direct in Bradford recently



Back in the day I got plenty of stick locally and nationally - thick skin needed



A freezing cold January carp - most have hung up their rods by then!

and if life has taught me anything (particularly within the fishing trade) is never be reliant on others. Whether it's your mobile phone or DSLR blooming practice your self takes for both daylight and night shots. A single bank stick, Gardner Camera Angle etc and you're sorted. Over 90% of all my trophy shots are mobile self takes and if a technophobe like me can master it you modern day carp tigers will find it no problem at all.

8. Never say no. Start at the bottom and work your way up. You won't be offered the keys to the kingdom from the off so ensure you build a reputation the right way and that's by being realistic and never saying no to an opportunity. Before I headed up Carp Team Daiwa in the nineties (way before Korda were involved) I was nothing but a glorified sticker-hander-outer at conferences for Daiwa. No ego just put the leg work in, be seen as reliable and loyal. Even now if Nash want me at a tackle shop, need a quote, want an article doing no matter how last minute the request is the answer is YES. Believe me in the fishing industry you have so many flakes who won't do things let their laziness give you opportunities.

9. Attend everything you can. Be it the big shows like 'The Big One', 'Brentwood', 'Festival Of Carp', tackle shop open days, carp nights etc the more you go to the better your visibility to the brands Take those shots, interact positively with them, network and see what works and what does not. So many have a CBA attitude (Can't Be Arsed) which will benefit those that CAN be arsed. Having done so many conferences, open days and shows all around the country I can promise you it's boots on the ground that make impressions not posts on social media. Faces get recognised and coupled with the other points I've made these are the people who get their feet in the door.



**I've always grafted short term and looked long term - My industry and carp fishing inspiration
Tim Paisley - We go back almost forty years**

10. Look long term but graft short term. Whilst some still say to me "It's alright for you" I promise you that it's been a long old journey that in many ways (to help others so inclined) I've tried to condense into these two articles.

Started fishing in 1976 - Appeared in print in 1978 -
First article printed in 1979 - First carp article in 1986 -
First sponsorship in 1986 - First book in 1990 - First tangible paid consultancy in 1991.

So not exactly been gifted anything . Hopefully there will be some of you who want to make a difference / contribution to angling and if this has enlightened you or inspired you at all I'd love to know but most of all enjoy it and keep enjoying it .

Jules



Involved or not forty years on carp make me smile



My parents meant everything to me and losing them was awful - fishing was one of the few things that kept me sane

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Speci 1

The carp have woken up and are being caught over baited areas of sweet-corn and pellet, or fishing pva bags close to the islands or inner margins, with every fish caught they are topping up their baited area with a couple more spombs. Perch fishing on here has been rewarding to anglers that are willing to fish for them with some just shy of 4lb. These fish have all been caught on float fishing tactics by using worm or maggot on the hook and constantly sprinkling maggots over the top on every cast with a catapult to keep the rudd and roach in the swim which will then attract the big perch to feed.

Speci 2

The carp in this lake have been coming out by fishing to margin spots with solid pva bags or a little pva mesh bag and using fruity/sweet boilies like cell and pineapple. Catfish are the more dominant species of fish in this lake and they do push out the carp feeding in your area, as they will eat anything. But if you wish to just target the catfish then the best method is to use high attractant boilies or pellet like krill boilies or marine halibut pellet over a large bed of pellet that's soaked in a fishy attractant. The catfish have started to wake up now with the biggest coming out so far at 30lb.

Heron

People have been having a cracking time on here catching large mixed bags of silvers and carp on both float and method feeding tactics. Baits that seem to be working is maggots, castors and worms over a ball of groundbait when float fishing and feeder fishing seems to be banded 10mm pellets. Don't forget your surface baits as they are taking of the top now the warmer weather has arrived.

Kingfisher

This lake is the one to be on any time of the year especially during the winter as it produces lovely mixed bags of fish and keeps you going all day. Fish can literally be caught on the top two sections of your pole on any bait that you wish to use.

Bluebell

Tench are starting to show in numbers with this warmer weather, and the key is to bait up little and often with a pole pot or with a catapult and add a ball of groundbait every now and again just to keep their heads down grubbing around. There has also been some good size carp out to 10lb with the odd 1lb rudd and roach showing.

Don't forget to dip your nets, slings and unhooking mats/cradles or you will be asked to leave. CCTV IS IN OPERATION!!!!

Wylands Fishery Junior Competition

With the schools breaking up, Wylands Fishery quickly put together a junior carp competition – and what a result it turned out to be! In just 48 hours, young angler Jack landed an incredible **119lb of carp**, earning himself a well-deserved 1st place finish. At only 14 years old, Jack is already proving to be a serious contender on the bank, giving the older anglers a real run for their money! 🐟 🏆



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Curtis Brown Pullens 34



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John White Pullens Lake



Neil Wittaker North Lake 41.13



Glen Collins 24.3 Kettles lake

Elphicks Fisheries

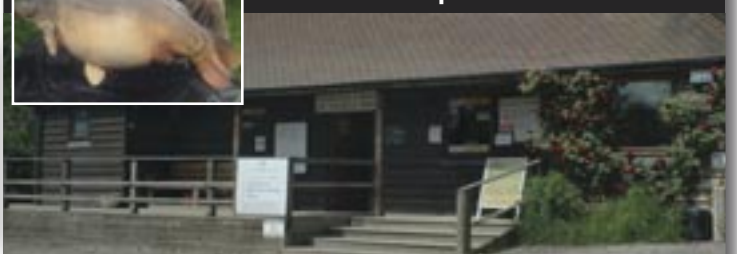
Elphicks has been designed and built with the modern angler in mind. We have 7 lakes available for day ticket and session fishing. Each lake has it's own parking within easy reach of the swims and all swims are 'all weather' - either built of Astroturf, stone or bark. Please contact the fishery for further information on any of our lakes.



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Harvey Royal 22lb 8oz
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Ronnie Bristow - 22lb mirror
PB



Coral Lock - New PB 23lb 8oz Mirror -
Miniature Railway



Coral Lock - New PB 23lb 8oz Mirror -
with a double take with Dad



Richard - Sandwich lake
at Elphicks fishery - carp
on the fly rod, this 14lb
13oz



Molie Gunn - 13th
Birthday Carp



Lee Taylor - Orchard place fishing PB Cat 48lb
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info@tonbridge-angling.co.uk

The Linton Angling Society - Membership Vacancies

We are a small but friendly club with beautiful lake, 2 ponds, 5 reservoirs and over 8 miles of fishing on the River Medway and Beult. Our waters contain Carp to 32lb, Pike 30lb+, Tench 8lb+, Chub 7lb, Perch 4lb and Roach to 3lb, including some good Bream and Eels. All year fishing, member's guest permits, night fishing allowed. We run over 30 matches a year and have a large junior section. Concessionary rates available for OAPs, Disabled and Juniors.

For further details contact: **Jason Tuckey on 07983 569220**

e-mail: lassecretary@lintonangling.co.uk

www.lintonangling.co.uk

MICK BATTELL - MEMORIAL FISHING DAY

Monk Lakes - Lake 3

Another fantastic day had by all in the memory of Dad. A sweltering day with hardly any wind to take the edge off of the heat, yet everyone enjoyed the fishing and caught a few fish. Species were tricky to come by, so bonus points were few and far between.

We had our first juniors taking part this year and they both done well and caught some prize winning fish.

We all headed back to the Royal Oak, Tonbridge to enjoy the live music, presentation, raffle and a few beers.

Special thanks go to Haywards Butchers, Medway Tackle, Tonbridge & District Angling & Fish Preservation Society for sponsoring the event and a massive thank you to Sue & Andy at the Royal Oak for hosting us and helping make it a great evening. We raised £500 on the raffle for the Pickering Cancer walk in Centre in Tunbridge Wells.

Myself, Duncan, Russell, Mum and the rest of the family thank you all for your continued support in making this such a great day in the memory of Dad.

1st - Chris Green / Neal Rogers	112 points
2nd - Austin Battell / Oliver Theobald	103 points
3rd - Jason Craven / Kev Hickey	99 points
4th - Mark Roe / Graham Fisk	92 points
5th - Nick Dann / Steve Twort	80 points

INDIVIDUAL POINTS WINNER - Jason Craven - 62 points

SILVERS BULKWEIGHT - Kevin Hickey - 14lb 5oz

CARP BULKWEIGHT - Tony Cooper - 31lb 9oz

OVERALL BULKWEIGHT - Neal Rogers - 39lb 3oz

BIGGEST CARP - Oliver Theobald - 13lb 10oz

BIGGEST TENCH - Jon Round - 2lb 2oz

BIGGEST IDE - Jacob Smith - 1lb 10oz

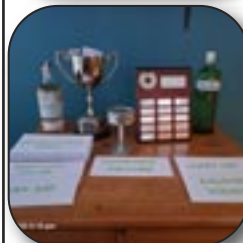
BIGGEST BREAM - Duncan Battell - 2lb 0oz

SECT 1 - Rod Craft 57 points

SECT 2 - Tony Balcombe 49 points

SECT 3 - Graham Fisk 49 points

SECT 4 - Kev Hickey 37 points



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Lake Sophie match/Pleasure - Carp 16lb+ Tench 8lb+ Chub
5lb+ Barbel 4lb+ Perch 3lb+ Bream 11lb+ Roach 2lb+ skimmer
Bream and other silvers



www.newclaygatelakes.co.uk



Claygate Membership & Day Ticket

Matthew Good has recently caught his third 40-pound fish from Lake Amy, which he has named "The JD" in honor of regular anglers.



Claygate offers both day and night ticket fishing, and in response to the cost of living, they are providing a 12-month membership for all lakes.



Members can stay updated on recent catch reports by following "Dave Claygate" on Facebook. For more information, interested individuals are encouraged to visit the website or drop by on weekends to discuss membership.



Bookings can be made through Swimbooker, and both card and cash payments are accepted.

Additionally, a snack wagon is available daily, serving hot and cold drinks and snacks, with food offered on weekends.



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Saturday - 7:30am - 5:30pm
Sunday - 9:30am - 3:00pm

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In The Edge With Alex



Road closed, follow diversion. Not ideal, but not the end of the world.

Finding myself at a loose end, I had loaded up the car with various rods, reels and baits, and set off in the general direction of some lakes, ponds and rivers. The plan was to walk around a few venues until inspiration struck and I felt it worth casting a line. With no specific destination in mind, a road closure was little more than a minor inconvenience. The fact that the diversion led me into second road closure was mildly irritating, but when the second diversion ended with a long line of traffic waiting at temporary lights, surrounded by signs emblazoned with 'Expect long delays' I began to question my sanity.

As fate would have it, I had ceased to proceed in a village that I had lived in during my formative years. As I sat there quietly smouldering, a thought popped into my head. I had a vague recollection of a lake, accessed from a lane just yards from where I sat in traffic. I had never fished it, and remembered very little about it, but it had to be better than my current predicament. I turned into lane and drove slowly along, looking for signs of water. All I could really remember was that it was a fairly barren hole in the middle of a field. I rounded a corner, saw a gate and pulled in. What lay before me caused me to do a double take. Instead of the expected barren hole was a stunning looking lake. Rushes lined the margins, giving way to lily pads and beds of weed. The far bank was overhung by a canopy of mature trees. As I got out of the car, a whole host of mental gymnastics was going on in my head. Up until this moment, had anyone asked me when I last saw this lake I would have guessed at a few years. Now stood here on the bank, with memories flooding back, I realised that it was over four decades. 40yrs! I caught my reflection in the margins. Beard and belly. Between me and the lake it was clear to see who was closer to their prime. Thankfully, before the trip turned into a philosophical retreat, I also caught sight of a dark shape resting in a weed bed. I grabbed a pocket full of floaters and set off around the lake. I could instantly tell that there wasn't much depth. It was also surprisingly clear for a clay dug lake, suggesting that it wasn't overflowing with fish. I had seen a carp though, and as I made my way around the perimeter I

saw signs of others. Not many, but enough. The one thing that surprised me was how easily spooked they were. Even the fish that was sunning itself in the middle of the lake had drifted off well before I drew level with it.

I continued on my lap, putting out handfuls of floaters in likely looking spots as I went, before returning to the car for my rod.

I moved around the lake once more. All was quiet, no sight, nor sound, of the fish I had seen just minutes earlier. In fact it stayed quiet for the next couple of hours. It was only when some of the freebies drifted in amongst the branches of a fallen tree, that I started to see the tell-tale swirls of fish feeding. I crept around, totally unfishable, but a good opportunity to see at least some of the stock. Over the next hour or so, I saw a handful of commons, and four mirror carp, the biggest of which had two distinct scales on its flank. By now the fish were feeding quite confidently. The next step was to draw them out of their sanctuary. The freebies had drifted in from upwind, and the fish were reluctant to leave the branches in that direction. By rolling small amounts of baits directly into the branches, I hoped that they would drift downwind, into a clearer area, and take the fish with them. I also introduced baits against any reeds and rushes that had folded out into the margins. It was an exercise in patience, but eventually the fish gained confidence. Firstly the smaller commons, then one by, the mirrors. I sat on my hands and waited. The 'two scaled' mirror was noticeably larger than its attendants. If I was only going to get one chance, then I wanted it to be with that fish.

Slowly, slowly she gained confidence. First the inside edge of the branches, then the small gap between tree and bank. Each lap taking in more and more open water. By now I was flicking individual floating trout pellets in a line, each time her back was turned, in an attempt to draw her further along the bank. I had the perfect ambush spot. A small gap in the reeds where the ducks and geese had been getting in and out of the water. Enough cover to hide behind, enough space to poke the rod tip through. The 'slide' made by the waterfowl also created the perfect pocket to hold a small raft of bait.

I crouched on my haunches, sweat on my brow, aches in my back. The forty years since my last visit making themselves known. Just at the point of getting up to stretch, I heard a gulp, and rings rippled into my clearing. It's funny how you tune in to the feeding style of an individual fish, and I knew that it was the two scale mirror. I lowered the hookbait in readiness. A large mouth broke the surface at the edge of the clearing. Pellets tumbled down her throat, like leaves over a weir. Inch by inch she closed in on my bait. I tensed, preparing to strike. She paused, backed up, swam around the hookbait, took a couple more pellets, then waddled back to the branches.

I began the laborious task of feeding again. By now the light was falling, so I could at least stand without casting a shadow. Once again the big fish started to gain confidence. This time it was joined by a common, creating an element of competitive feeding. I, however, was taking no chances, and trimmed the hookbait down to the point where it barely supported the weight of the diminutive size 12 hook. As both fish swam towards me, the mirror slightly ahead, I wasted no time, and lowered the hookbait directly in front of it. This time there was no hesitation, and the bait was taken. Realising its mistake, at the exact same moment that I struck, the fish erupted in a frenzy of spray. In a split second it was back at the edges of the submerged

branches. I plunged the rod underwater, clamping down on the spool, and forcing the fish to arc out into open water. Once clear of the snags, I relaxed my grip and allowed the fish to run. This was only the first hurdle though, and preventing the carp from reaching the lillies on the far bank was the next challenge. I changed the angle of the rod, the fish responded in kind, and set off along the pool. Weed began to ping off of the line, I wasn't too bothered by this, it was clear that it wasn't very deep rooted, if anything, it was probably to my advantage in slowing the fish down. I followed the fish along the bank, arriving at the spot where I had purposely left my landing net. With all major dramas avoided, and confident that the tackle would hold, I settled in to enjoy the remainder of the fight. Minutes later, I was admiring a sizeable carp on my unhooking mat, the two large scales on its flank gleaming in the dying embers of the evening sun. At 21lb 3oz, my first over that magic mark for some time, I felt that the reward had been well worth the effort.

With the roads still closed, I meandered my way home. My mind turned to the other fish that I'd seen. None bigger than which I'd caught, but well worth a return trip.

Follow diversion? This place has driven me to distraction.

Alex





Fish of the Month Prize Winner



Jack Keutenius - Stour Valley Complex - Loggies Lake - 38lb 11oz Common Carp



Natalie Jackman with a 24lb Snipe Mirror Beaver Fishery



Grace - Sandwich Lakes
17lb 12oz



Harley Hodd - 35lb
Common Carp



Jamie Thomas - Mouse-
hole lakes - 30.4lb Carp



Ian Inglis - 22lb caught
from Orchard Place



Douglas - Lovelace lake 2 -
24-4 Mirror Previous Urban
Bait Winner



Mandy Ann Taylor - First
ever Catfish



Ryan Flynn - Cottingdon
lakes - 18lb Common



Brad - Warmwell -
Mirror carp 25 pound

FRESHWATER INFORMER

This competition is open to all species. To be in with a chance of winning, send your catches to:

info@freshwaterinformer.com or our Facebook Page,
Winners will receive a:

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to match in either their **Nutcracker, Red Spicy Fish, Tuna & Garlic, Strawberry or Fully Loaded Range**

Winner's Spotlight A huge congratulations to
Jack Keutenius, our latest competition winner!
Jack landed an incredible 38lb 11oz common carp at the
Stour Valley Complex – Loggies Lake

Your continued support is what makes these giveaways
possible! Stay tuned for next month's
prize – you won't want to miss it!



James Cranfield - Cypry
Angel Pool 35.08
Mirror Carp



Craig Ramsden - 19lb.5
Two Tone Mirror Carp



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Readers Capture's



Alfie Botting Claygate
Lakes 9 years old
Caught on Magot



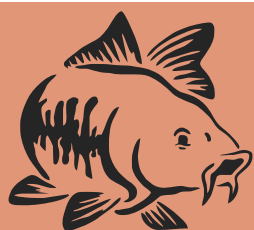
James Lee - Sandwich
lakes - 9lb Mirror



James Lee - Sandwich
lakes Koi Carp



Damon Scott -
Geddes Hill - 18lbs



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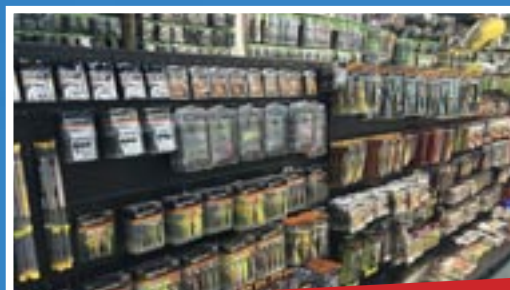
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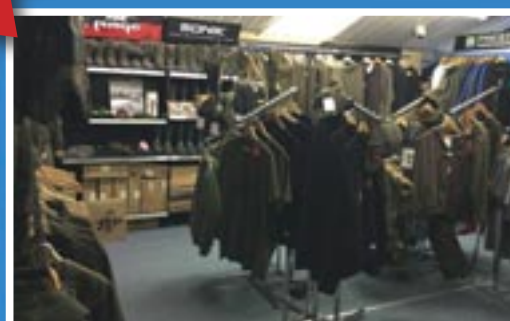
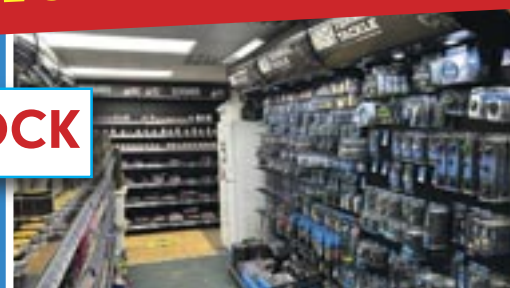


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JIM'S JOURNEY.

24 HOURS @ MORE HOUSE FARM FISHERY KINGFISHER LAKE.

Welcome back to my story and progress through Jim's Journey. This month, our travels took us to More House Farm Fishery, located just outside Haywards Heath. Having never fished here before, we were a little apprehensive about how best to approach the water, but excitement soon took over. We chose to fish Kingfisher Lake, the largest on the complex. At around 3 acres in size, Kingfisher is well known for its variety of features—snaggy margins, a central island, lily pads, and plenty of depth changes to explore. The lake holds a fantastic head of carp, with fish regularly topping the 20lb mark and a number of thirties present, along with good numbers of doubles that keep the action flowing.

On arrival, we were given swims 5 and 6, roughly midway along the bank. I opted for the cabin swim so that Katelyn and I had a bit more room, while Dad set up next door. The cabins are a great addition to Kingfisher—they provide shelter, space, and comfort, meaning even those without bivvies can experience the buzz of overnight sessions. The weather was warm and sunny, perfect conditions for getting settled in.

Setting the Traps

I decided to keep things simple but varied: each rod went out with a different bait. Katelyn did the same. She took the left-hand side of the swim, while I aimed towards the central island where I'd spotted fish rolling. Our rigs were straightforward D-rigs, baited with match-the-hatch wafers, backed up with small mesh bags of pellet. I fished with Urban Bait Nutcracker on one rod and Spicy Red Fish on the other.



Katelyn wasn't best pleased when I dropped one of her rods just 75cm from the margin—complaining

that she'd "never catch that close in!"—but as it turned out, that spot became the star of the session.

First Blood

With everything set and couple of drinks poured, it didn't take long before Katelyn's margin rod let out a screaming take. That "useless" close-in spot suddenly produced her first fish—a cracking 10lb 8oz mirror. After a quick photo, she slipped it back, beaming. I soon followed with one around the same weight, while Dad was already into a couple from his swim. We were off the mark, confidence high, and a blank firmly avoided.

PBs and Plenty of Action

Katelyn's margin spot kept producing fish after fish, and before long she smashed her PB not once, but several times—culminating in a beautiful 22lb 4oz common. I couldn't help but think back to when I had my first twenty; a real milestone moment for any angler.

As we sat talking Katelyn mentioned that she would like to catch a Cat Fish but with that 5 minutes later she's playing a cat fish she just keeps catching really pleased with her capture we put it back as quickly as it was caught



With dinner calling, Katelyn and I rustled up a simple but tasty meal on the RidgeMonkey potato salad, couscous, pork belly, and crusty French bread. Refuelled, we spent the evening watching the water.

Dad managed a solid 15lb mirror overnight, while the rest of us enjoyed the rare luxury of a quiet, undisturbed sleep.

Morning broke with birdsong and a fiery sunrise, and I was soon into another fish. The action came steadily throughout the day, with one mad spell at lunchtime when Dad had a double take and, while helping him, I also hooked into a fish. At one point, we had three carp on the bank at once—a proper family chaos moment, but one we'll always remember.

Final Tally & Reflections

By the end of the session, we had tallied up 26 fish in total. Katelyn was the clear winner with 14 fish to



her name, including the biggest of the lot and her new PB. Not bad for someone who "wouldn't catch close in"!

We all agreed that More House Farm Fishery is somewhere we'll definitely be returning to. Kingfisher is just one of three waters on-site:

- Canal Lake – a long, narrow water perfect for margin fishing, stocked with plenty of doubles and twenties.
 - Middle Lake – a more intimate water that still produces some quality fish.
 - Kingfisher – the largest, with cabins available and a great head of fish for both pleasure and specimen anglers.
 - Oaks has 5 pegs with carp in it from 15lb to 33lb. Once fully grown will offer great features such as lilies and various tussocks grass and rushes.
 - Dogwood has 11 pegs with carp in it from 8lb to 32lb also there are 18 tench to mix things up a little. The pegs will be facing the islands giving everyone plenty of spots to fish too. Also including lilies and various tussocks grass and rushes.
- The fishery is well-kept, easily accessible, and very welcoming to families and juniors, making it a great choice whether you're after a quick day session or a longer stay.

We also had the pleasure of meeting some local young anglers on the bank, many of whom we'd already seen at the Bodle Angling Open Day. A great bunch of lads, and some of them were catching well into the twenties.

Finally, a big thank you to the anglers we met at the venue, many of whom have since sent in captures to the magazine—it's always fantastic to see and share those moments.

Until next time, tight lines.

JIM





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Wylands Junior Specimen Competition 2025

Five talented young anglers battled it out on Middle Lake in a singles tournament for the trophy and prizes donated by Dynamite Baits and some of our generous fishery members.

After 48 hours of close competition, Jack Lawrence stormed into first place with an incredible 191lb total and a 100lb lead. Finley Murrell took second, while Harry Brown claimed third, also landing the biggest fish and smashing his PB!

All the boys fished brilliantly, proving themselves great role models for the future of our sport. A huge thank you to everyone who took part, our sponsors, and supporters – we can't wait for the next event!



Results
1st: Jack Lawrence
2nd: Finley Murrell
3rd: Harry Brown





GUIDED LURE & FLY FISHING DAYS WITH ANDY LUSH

Andy offers a guiding service for those who want to learn more about 'Lure Fishing' and 'Fly Fishing'

LURE FISHING Fish a variety of reservoirs for Pike, Perch and Zander. These days are suitable for beginners and improvers who wish to 'fast track' their way to success. Learn more about lure fishing, the use of boats and fish finders, or just have a FUN day with an experienced Predator angler.

FLY FISHING One of Andy's favourite methods, Trout, Carp or Pike can be targeted.

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CARP & PIKE More anglers are looking to find exciting ways of catching their favourite fish. Carp off the top during the summer takes a lot of beating. Pike in the spring and autumn, whatever their size they are a lot of FUN on the fly!

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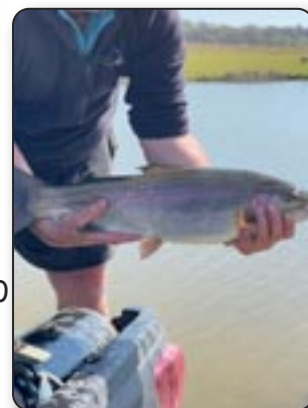
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Lakedown Trout Fishery & Taproom - Check Facebook for June Events

LAKEDOWN TROUT FISHERY & TAPROOM

Lakedown Trout Fishery is situated in a secluded Wealden valley with scenic views & no visible sign of habitation.

The Fishery was originally designed & created in 1981 by actor & Rock legend Roger Daltrey.

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Andy Lush - The Friendly Fisherman

Summer time, and the fishing easy?

After my trip to Portugal it took a while to regain an appetite for fishing. However after my first half-hearted attempt, I was soon weighing up my options. Too hot for trout or pike as both species suffer "heat stress" once the water's reach 20 'C' degrees. So my attention shifted to carp and other warm water species.

Lucks Lakes - Paddock Wood [TN12 6PA]

This was my first visit to Lucks Lakes. I'd seen so many carp on the surface of the reservoir on a recce visit earlier in the year, that a return visit with tackle was invertible.

Having chosen a swim I set to work with the marker rod. I found very little variation in depth; it was around 4 - 5ft [1.2 - 1.5m] within my half on the lake. I chose to fish a zig rig on one rod set 1ft [30cm] below the surface, a black CC Moore zig hookbait attached. This was cast a short distance to one side, leaving the open water for the pellet waggler rod. Out in front of me, I could clearly see carp cruising, often with their backs breaking the surface. These fish appeared to be searching for food before I'd even started loose feeding?

My opening gambit was to start feeding 8mm pellets. The pellet waggler was set at 18 inches [45cm]. Bites weren't forthcoming so out of interest I fed a few floaters. Immediately I spotted mouths breaking the surface. I put a floater in the latex band and cast out. I expected an instant response; however, the fish weren't impressed!

I reverted to sinking pellets, feeding regularly to draw the fish into the swim, but for some reason I couldn't hold them? Eventually I caught three when I stopped feeding, "starving them" into searching harder for food! Next, I switched from the pellet waggler to a floating feeder. I caught two fish on this change tactic, but this success was short lived. These cruising carp were proving to be very difficult.

While I fished the open water for visible fish, I noticed carp mooching along the margins. These fish were amongst the reeds, or sheltering under overhanging trees and bushes. So I decided to target them instead. I caught a few using a mini pellet waggler Puddle Chucker float. However the best tactic by far was to simply free line bread, directly under the rod tip. This was a game changer and I added several more carp to my tally. I ended a very enjoyable day thinking I should have done better, but how?

Return to Lucks Lakes

After my previous trip, I had to return. The carp in open water had beaten me, but on reflection I hadn't tried everything? This time I intended to use maggots

and mini floaters. These were delivered via a 'Top Baiter' floating feeder. The carp responded to the mini floaters immediately "packmaning". I tried 11mm floaters, 8mm sinkers, wafers and maggots, they ignored all of them!

Defeated, I reverted to float fishing just off the reeds with the Puddle Chucker. It took me a couple of hours of frustrating fishing before I finally switched to free lining bread, or 11mm floaters directly under the rod tip. When the carp became cautious, I fed mini floaters to induce them to feed again.

With several empty swims further along the bank, I decided to feed several and leave them unfished. When I started fishing them, I found carp eagerly mopping up my freebies. All I had to do was decide which one I wanted to catch. After each capture I would introduce more feed and leave. Moving onto the next pre-baited swim. Returning to swims that had been rested, I found fish feeding, but just a little more cautiously. By rotating swims, changing baits frequently and feeding mini floaters, I was able to keep catching until closing time.

Elphicks - Kettles Lake [TN12 8EL]

Finally, Melvyn Oakley and I managed one of our social fishing trips. These give Melvyn a relaxing break from his pressured matches. I try to pick new waters he's not fished before. However, Kettles has become one of his favourites, so that's where we went when we resumed our socials.

There was a strong northerly wind blowing when we arrived. So we decided to seek shelter towards the shallower top end of the lake. I suggested Melvyn should fish upwind of me. I intended fly fishing and didn't want my floaters drifting through his swim and possibly interfering with his fishing.

The wind made things difficult, my loose feed was spreading out quickly scattering the fish. It was a struggle to presentation my fly in a natural way. Shortly after casting out my floating fly line would swing across the wind, dragging the fly with it. Now my imitation floater was drifting across the wind, while the loose feed was drifting downwind. Carp are not stupid, so this wasn't going to work! My solution was to feed short, drawing the carp out of the main ripple. This reduced the winds effect, and gave my fly more time to drift drag free!

Every now and again the wind would subside. This "window of opportunity" allowed me to feed more accurately, close to my fly. By feeding little and often I could now target individual fish as they hunted for fewer floaters, which made catching them much easier.

Melvyn was having similar difficulties with the wind. Fortunately his swim was a little more sheltered. Concentrating his loose feed close to his float was not easy but he managed. He was fishing a pellet waggler, but getting bites was proving difficult. Finding the right depth and pinging a few pellets constantly is key to success with this method. By adjusting the float's depth throughout the session, he finally found the "sweet spot" and found he'd been fishing too deep. Carp will often change their depth during a session, which makes things difficult. To some extent this is influenced by your feeding rate, but it can also be affected by changing light levels.

Once Melvyn got it sussed, he hooked his first fish which turned out to be a grass carp! These strange looking fish are much slimmer and longer than normal carp. His "tea strainer" pan net was far too small, so I came to his assistance with my specimen sized spoon net.

Although Melvyn did catch more carp, he struggled to get bites consistently. Changing depths and baits kept him busy, but on this day he never really cracked it. For a little while he even tried the method feeder, but that wasn't the answer either.



Melvyn's first every grass
carp 16lb 5oz

In contrast my session had been a resounding success! The carp wanted to feed off the surface which suited my method completely. Melvyn stuck to his match tactic,s where the rules don't allow the use of floating baits. I'm absolutely convinced that was the main reason for the difference in our catches.

Grass carp

I know they're not everyone's cup of tea, but I like them a lot. In fact I seek waters that have them. I find their feeding behaviour fascinating. They are more selective in what they will eat and when they will feed. Different waters present different challenges. On Kettles Lake at Elphicks for instance the water is quite coloured. This makes targetting grass carp quite difficult. However after several seasons fishing there I've noticed a few give away signs. They often breach the surface, not unlike a porpoise. When they dive their distinctive black edged forked tail is easily identifiable. Wearing polarised glasses, when sight fishing helps me spot carp swimming just sub-surface. Grassies are so much longer than carp so its easy to pick them out.

Another water I visit for its big grass carp is much clearer. These fish often bask on the surface sunning themselves. They are altogether easier to find, however they are very finicky feeders. Sometimes it's

taken me hours of trickling baits in before they will feed! That was until this year? I'm told their behaviour, and that of the other carp has changed completely. Apparently there are fewer anglers surface fishing this water? On the two visits I've made this season I've managed to get them taking floaters immediately. This change in behaviour is amazing. My first session saw three grassies taking 11mm floaters as soon as they heard them hit the water! However, they were very wary of my first choice Fulling Mill close copy [1800] mixer fly. I fed some smaller floaters which switched them on. Next, I tied on a duo pellet fly. This was cast just ahead of a large grassie, it took the fly without hesitation. On feeling the hook the water exploded in the most dramatic fashion! Despite what I've been told, grass carp do fight, especially of fly tackle. This large grass carp was not the biggest of the bunch, but it was large enough to get my knees knocking. As they say the scales never lie, so when the needle stopped at 20lbs I was very happy. After that I had to move as



Andy's duo pellet fly



This grassie took Andy's duo pellet fly without hesitation

unsurprisingly the swim was now devoid of fish! The fishery owner was right, I fed a few floaters in a new swim and quickly had several carp eagerly moping up my free offerings. I managed to catch several doubles, topped by a 22lb common, what a day!



Til' next month, tight lines.

Andy

Junior Competition Winners



Kindly sponsored by MFC Outdoor Store
& Fish With Carl



See Page 9 for
more details for
MFC



Fish With Carl

MFC Store Prize Winner – Riley Taylor

A big well done to Riley Taylor, who's had an amazing session at Dartford Lakes! Riley banked a lovely 21lb mirror carp on a standard hair rig with five bits of sweetcorn and a handful of corn over the top.



WINNER



NEW PB



Not stopping there, he also smashed his PB with a cracking 22lb common carp, again on five bits of sweetcorn fished mid-lake, with around ten spods of corn over the top.

Two fantastic fish, two great tactics – top angling Riley! 🐟

Fish With Carl Winner: Violet Young - Lochrane

Fish With Carl Book Winner Update 5-year-old Violet Young-Lochrane is already fishing like a pro! Using her Darenth Valley 8ft quiver rod, she's been catching numerous carp and tench, and now she's almost hit double figures with this chunky 9lb common – a new PB! 🐟 🍷

Great angling, Violet – keep up the brilliant work on the bank! 🐟



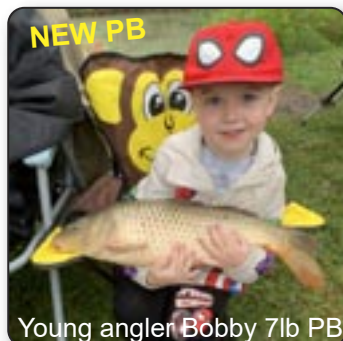
NEW PB



WINNER



Oliver Stickells - Chart Hill
Lakes - 11lb 3oz carp

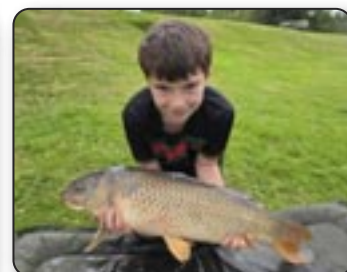


NEW PB

Young angler Bobby 7lb PB



Tedd Benson - 34lb Cat Fish



Sonny Elliot - Wylands
Common 13.8



Steve Thomas Sandwich lake
8.10



Young Angler Bobby catching
fish on a whip with maggots



Max Fox - Cottington Lakes
Fishery - 15.2 Common



Finn Bailey - Clay Pit
Fishery's - 25lb 1oz Common



Oscar Ren Reeves - Frant
lakes - 22.4lb Common Carp



Logan Buchanan with his
new PB - 15lb Common Carp



Seve Gough - 17lb Carp -
Hair Rigged Cell and Corn



Oscar Leahy - 19lb Carp -
1st Carp PB



Brandon Parsons - 34lb 6oz PB
Cat Fish - Fourtrees Hawkhurst



Izaac Adams aged 14. 18lb Com-
mon - Morehouse Farm



Maia Anderson with her first
ever carp! 22lb 6oz



James Ridley - 28.5 lbs Wels
Catfish



Millie Bowles - 27lbs Mirror PB
- Monk Lakes



Ollie - Willows Fishery
Mirror Carp



Oscar Sen Reeves - 17lb
Ghost Carp - Frant Lakes



Charlie Challinor - 3lb 13oz
Golden Carp



Finn langford - 3lb Perch -
Shirkoaks Fisheries



Fraser loydall - 25lb
Common



Zachary Davey - 13lb Mirror
Carp - Frant Lakes



Billy Kirk - 15lb Mirror Carp
- Clock House Farm

Fishing Tale Films

Video Rant Says It All

by Russ Evans

If you are a regular viewer to my YouTube channel Fishing Tail Films then you will know exactly what the article headline is all about, cars! Whether we actually think it or not a car is a piece of an anglers tackle, you could say it is a powerful trolley system which gets you and your tackle from A to B followed by C with a long or short walk or a fishing trolley distance to chosen peg unless you are parking right behind your swim as some fisheries allow which means option C is not required. Now in case you think I am going mad, let me explain. Around mid July I decided my diesel car of eight years needed changing to something more suitable for fishing and after selling my car which was easy enough I agonisingly just missed out by a few hours on a car that I had an eye on, I dithered too long and someone else beat me to it. So my search started again and I could not find a near enough suitable car like the one I just missed out on, so car boot space was a key element for another model type in my search as from time to time I take everything including the kitchen sink on 48-72 hour tench/bream/carp sessions.

The model was selected after spending hours and hours searching on the internet and I found myself ordering a car online with a company that advertises on the TV with its motto "buy a car without all the faff" The transaction was simple enough, date of delivery confirmed and I had to wait a week for my car to be delivered to my home. So from selling my car to waiting for delivery meant no fishing for two weeks, OK I thought not ideal but the rivers are low so hopefully by the time I have another car we would have had some much needed rain and I can hit the

ground running again.

It Was A Long Wait and then the Faff started

The long wait was over and just after 8am on a Thursday morning my new second hand car and fishing companion looking all shiny rolled into town. I greeted the driver, she checked my ID and said welcome to your new car so I took a walk around it with my daughter and we opened a few doors lifted the bonnet up etc etc and then the driver said, there is half a tank of petrol in it which I put in this morning as it hardly had any petrol in it and a tyre warning light came on as I set off to say one of the rear tyres only had 22psi in it so I have put 35psi in all the tyres. I looked puzzled at her and said they let you drive a car with only 22psi in one of the tyres and it had next to no petrol in it. "Yes" she said "not ideal is it" No it isn't I said in disbelief. So now my mind was ticking over over the lack of care that my new fishing companion has had and would I find any other signs of lack of care. The driver asked where the newest train station was as she had to make her own way home and we pointed her in the right direction and off she went. I parked the car on my drive and went in for some breakfast looking forward to my first spin in the car to suss it out. The first spin went OK and it felt a nice car with its impressive chrome blue colour, me and my new buddy were going to have some great fishing journeys as I have loads planned from September to late April as that is when I am most active.



The above headline is the title of one of my recent

videos where I rant, I mean explain about my experience with this car company. The day after its delivery I thought I would put the back seats down and see how much tackle I can fit in to the boot space with seats down, loads and loads should have been the answer but oh no was the outcome as the twin seat lever was loose and the back seat was not moving, the cable was either snapped or not connected. So I got off on the wrong foot, a back seat that won't budge is no good to a fisherman with lots of tackle to load up. The fault was reported as the car had a 90

day warranty plus a 14 day money back guarantee and the response was "we can send a technician out on Wednesday to assess the problem". The following day after my second short spin revealed the three washer jets at the front were not spraying out water, (yes there was water in the bottle tank) which is an MOT fail for a start even though the car had been given a years MOT two days before I bought it. I was losing confidence now in the vehicle and that was reported to the company by email as an hour long wait on the phone failed to get through. The final straw was a few hours later that same day as I checked the washer jets again and on the dashboard I noticed a Stability Control light was on, the very same warning light that failed the MOT a few days before I had bought it. Needless to say I was far from impressed and informed the company to take the car away and refund my money which they have already I am pleased to say some four days after towing the car away. More details of my misery can be seen in my YouTube video and I am sure I will look back and laugh about it but not just yet as it was an unwelcome mess and stressful time.

As I type this column (12th August) I am still without a car but I am in the process of viewing one soon from a reputable dealer local to me that offers 12 months warranty as well so by the time this September issue reaches you I should have been out fishing again and filming for the channel. Fingers crossed.



Looking Ahead as Autumn Approaches

Going stir crazy from not fishing has meant I have been planning away to my hearts content for Perch sessions on lakes and slow moving rivers. I have joined a new club based in Kent and East Sussex which means I will be fishing again on probably my favourite river, the Rother, a river that produced me so many good match wins from my match fishing days so why I have not joined the club earlier I just don't

know so I am really looking forward to acquainting myself with this lovely picturesque river in stunning surroundings.

I shall look forward to fishing for some quality tench, perch and eels on a variety of methods with some filming as well, plus I will get to write about my sessions in this excellent magazine.

Many of you that know me, know fishing for specimen Perch and Roach takes up a big percentage of my autumn and winter fishing sessions along with a session or two on the chub so you could say I am revved up and in the starting blocks waiting for the tape to raise so I can get on with it.

Good luck on your next fishing trip and please check out my Fishing Tail Films channel which contains well over 250 video content on a manner of all species and venues.

All the Best Russ Evans

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Hawkhurst Fish Farm



Darren - Dove Lake Hawkhurst Fishery



Josh - Dove Lake Hawkhurst Fishery



Ryan - Dove Lake Hawkhurst Fishery

Mousehole Fishery



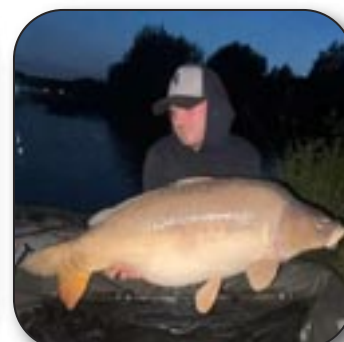
Mousehole - Michael and Franks 40lb



Terry - Mousehole Fishery



Micky - Mousehole Fishery



Jenson - Mousehole Fishery

Confidence at the Water's Edge: How Trail Blazers Education is Reeling in Young Potential

At Trail Blazers Education, the classroom doesn't have four walls—it has tree canopies, open skies, and rippling lakes. Based across Kent and East Sussex, this innovative education provider is redefining how vulnerable young people can reconnect with learning.



One powerful tool in their kit? Angling. For many of the young people Trail Blazers supports—those facing exclusion, mental health challenges, or disengagement—the calm of the water and the rhythm of fishing offer something the traditional classroom cannot. Here, they find focus. Achievement. Confidence.

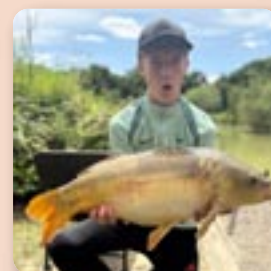
Over the past few years, angling has become a key part of Trail Blazers' alternative provision. With a strong emphasis on emotional wellbeing, resilience, and hands-on learning, fishing sessions at Cottington Lakes and



Coombeewood Fishery are making a real difference. At Cottington Lakes, sessions are led by co-founder Gavin, a seasoned angling coach with over 15 years' experience supporting children with SEND. He's joined by Simon Bater, a

renowned big carp angler whose deep knowledge and natural rapport with young people bring the sessions to life.

At Coombeewood Fishery, co-founder Ben Lewis runs the programme with a passion for inclusive education and a drive to help every learner feel seen, heard, and supported. Whether it's tying rigs or talking through challenges, the goal remains the same: rebuild trust and self-belief through outdoor experiences. What makes these sessions unique isn't just the fishing—it's the learning that happens along the way.



Participants build life skills like patience, problem-solving, and teamwork. They gain the confidence to try, fail, and try again. And most importantly, they discover that learning can be something they enjoy.

Trail Blazers isn't just teaching kids to fish. They're catching confidence, one cast at a time.

🗨️ "At Trail Blazers, the lakes are our classroom—and confidence is what we catch."

🌐 www.trailblazerseducation.co.uk

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MADE IN BRITAIN

The Diary of an Match Angler

Freddy's Return to the Bank – Gedges Fishery Lake 2

Written By Freddy Joa Beany

Hi all,

First of all, apologies for not having any articles out over the past couple of months. I've been recovering from a hand injury, but luckily I'm a quick healer and I'm pleased to say I'm now back in the game and, more importantly, back on the bank!

For my return session I decided to head over to Gedges Fishery, Lake 2, targeting the silvers and sharing my approach that led to a lovely net full.

Choosing the Peg

set up on the dam wall bank, nothing scientific behind the choice, just fancied giving it a go. My peg for the day was permanent peg 8. With everything set up, I'll talk you through the plan of attack.

The Approach

Pretty straight forward really:

Short whip line – targeting roach with hemp and caster loose feed. 14m line – aiming for bream, tench, and skimmers. I fed Dynamite Silver X groundbait mixed with chopped worm, casters, dead reds, and Swim Stim micros. Over the top, I'd present either corn or a worm section.

Rigs

Whip setup: 0.2g slim-bodied float, 0.12 Matrix Micron mainline, tapered bulk of 13 no.11 Guru shot, hook length 0.10 Drennan Acolyte fluorocarbon, size 18 Guru LWG. 14m line: 0.5g round-bodied float, 0.12 Matrix Micron mainline, tapered bulk of 11 no.9 Guru shot, hooklength 0.10 Drennan Acolyte fluorocarbon, size 16 Guru LWG.

Groundbait Prep

I use a whole bag of Dynamite Silvers X (around 4 pints) with 2 pints of water. Leave it for 10–15 minutes, riddle it through 4mm, then let it stand for 45 minutes to an hour. Finally, I push it through 4mm again and then a 2mm so it's nice and fine.

Bait Tray

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| • Dynamite Swim Stim 2mm Micros | • Casters |
| • Maggots (live & dead) | • Hemp |
| • Corn | • Worms |
| • Silvers X groundbait | |

How the Day Went

I started by feeding two rich balls of groundbait on the 14m line with chopped worm, dead reds, casters, micros, and hemp. With that settling, I picked up the whip and began loose feeding hemp and casters. Straight away I was into roach one after the other, swapping between maggot and caster on the hook. The caster brought a slightly better stamp of fish. Then I noticed some fizzing, so I tried a grain of corn – sure enough, the float buried and I was into a cracking skimmer of around 2½–3lb. After around half an hour I tried the long line with corn. It wasn't frantic action, but patience was rewarded with a bream, followed soon after by a tench.

Each time I topped up the peg with another ball of groundbait before returning to the whip, which kept the roach coming steadily all session. Throughout the day the long line produced bream and tench with the odd skimmer and even a nice perch. Later on I swapped to worm over corn and found I got quicker responses from the bigger fish – something I'll definitely bear in mind for next time.

Final Tally

By the end of the session I'd put together a lovely mixed net of silvers, finishing with 30lb+. I was more than happy with the result, though I think if I'd switched to worm earlier, I might have added a few more bream and tench to the haul.

All in all, it was a great day's angling and the perfect way to mark my return to the bank.



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60 hours : £90

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84 hours : £120

48 hours : £75

96 hours : £135

5 days : £150

6 days : £165

7 days : £180

Exclusive Hire up to 6 anglers for 48 hours : £500

KINGFISHER LAKE up to 3 Rods

Day Ticket : £20

60 hours : £80

24 hours : £35

72 hours : £95

36 hours : £50

84 hours : £110

48 hours : £65

96 hours : £125

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6 days : £155

7 days : £170

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Darren Thorpe - Kingfisher pods @ Tricklebrook Fishery

Darren Thorpe and his family recently enjoyed a brilliant few days at Tricklebrook Fishery, staying in one of the popular Kingfisher pods on New Lake. During their stay, Darren managed to land an impressive 19 fish, with the best of the trip tipping the scales at 26lb – a great result and plenty of action to keep the rods busy!

The pods at Tricklebrook are a real highlight for visiting anglers. They offer the perfect balance between comfort and being right on the water's edge. With lakeside views and just a few steps to your rods, they make an ideal base for both short breaks

and longer fishing holidays. The Kingfisher pods, in particular, are well-equipped and provide a cosy retreat after a long day on the bank, whether you're there with the family or on a social with friends.

Tricklebrook has built a reputation not only for its well-stocked lakes but also for its facilities that make fishing trips that little bit more special. Darren and his family certainly made the most of it enjoying quality time together, plenty of fish on the bank, and the comfort of lakeside accommodation.





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Medway Man

Bob Morris

Medway Man – September 2025.

A continuing lack of rain has once again persuaded me to stick to my stillwater efforts for the last month, and with the forecasts suggesting little change over the next few weeks, it looks like my river fishing will have to wait until autumn or even winter this year. Low levels, sluggish flow and warm water are rarely a recipe for enjoyable river angling, and rather than forcing the issue, I've found it far more rewarding to stay with the lakes.

Fortunately, the summer season so far has been kind to me, and I've enjoyed some of the most consistent tench action that I've had in recent years. There's something very satisfying about watching the float dip and slide away before those unmistakable, ponderous runs of a tench. It's been a case of steady rewards rather than fireworks, but in many ways, that makes it all the more enjoyable.

As usual, carp have played their part. On several of the waters I've been concentrating on, they've been unavoidable companions. While I don't mind a carp muscling in from time to time, there are occasions when a double-figure fish crashing about under the rod tip can completely ruin a carefully-prepared tench swim. Often, it takes an hour or two for everything to settle down again, and that can be frustrating when you've put in the effort to feed the swim correctly.

To counter this, I often try to draw the carp away with floating baits—cat and dog biscuits flicked out a little further along the bank. More often than not, the plan works, though it requires discipline on my part not to abandon the tench rods and go chasing carp instead! That said, it's a nice "problem" to have, and there have been plenty of sessions when a slow tench day has been salvaged by a bonus carp or two. The long, hot spells recently have encouraged carp into the upper layers. Watching them cruise and bask on the surface is one of summer's simple pleasures, and in many places they'll happily slurp down floating offerings. But—and this has always fascinated me—on certain waters, the carp seem utterly disinterested in anything on the top. You can have fish cruising right under your nose, perfectly placed biscuits drifting past them, and yet they'll ignore every single one. I've witnessed this not only in the UK but also abroad, and despite years of watching, I'm no nearer to understanding it.



Interestingly, this reluctance doesn't seem tied to depth. I know deep lakes where floater fishing is excellent, and shallow lakes where the carp can be seen all day yet never rise. Many readers will have noticed the same and perhaps even wondered why surface fishing sometimes seems to have fallen out of fashion. One angler I spoke to recently dismissed it entirely, saying it "wasn't real carp fishing" – a strange view given how exciting and visual it can be.

Of course, mid-summer isn't just about the fishing. On several trips, I've had a front-row seat to the harvest. Watching combines and balers at work has become part of the seasonal rhythm for me, and I never cease to be impressed by the speed and efficiency of modern farming machinery. The hay-baling process in particular caught my eye this year—an intricate, almost hypnotic routine. While agriculture inevitably leaves its mark on the environment, it's encouraging to see more effort being made in recent years to reduce the negative impact and support wildlife where possible.

And speaking of wildlife, the margins of a freshly-cut field can be as productive as any swim. Last week, I witnessed a marsh harrier working the stubble for small mammals, moving with power and grace along the field edge. Moments later, a kestrel swooped almost silently, plucking a vole from the ground right before my eyes. As I packed up at dusk, a barn owl drifted across a nearby hedgerow, its ghostly form glowing in the fading light. For me, these encounters are as memorable as any fish, and they remind me that angling is about much more than what we land on the bank.

By the time I returned to the car, I had both a couple of good-sized tench under my belt and the memory of some truly special wildlife moments. Not a bad way to spend a summer's evening at all.

Bob Morris



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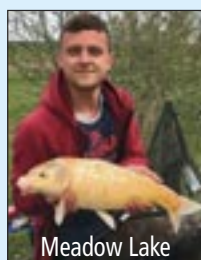
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