



YOUR QUERIES: ANSWERED

Q+A EXPERT ALEX GRICE

Although he's only 19-years-old, Alex has achieved a lot in his angling. Based in Nottingham, Alex's favourite venues include the River Trent and Linear Fisheries' Hardwick/Smiths and his favourite boilie is CC Moore's Odyssey XXX.



BOILIE CARE

HOW A LITTLE LOVE AND CARE CAN MAKE YOUR BOILIES LAST FIVE TIMES LONGER

Q How do I make my freezer baits last longer when on the bank?

Luke, Blake, Barnet

A Says Alex Grice: "Fresh bait or freezer bait as it has commonly known, requires very simple treatment in order to make sure that your bait is kept in the best condition with optimum attraction whilst on the bank. With a few very simple procedures you will enable your bait to stay fresh and full of goodness from the moment you take your bait from the freezer.

"Firstly, you should always remove your bait from the bag when taken from the freezer, allowing your bait to technically 'breathe' will mean that it will remain fresh and not go off. It is important that you do not leave your baits sealed in bags, buckets or tubs as this will mean they are susceptible to going off and they will not last as long. The best way for the freezer baits to receive lots of air is to place your baits straight from the freezer bag into an air-dry or mesh type bag; this will allow air to circulate throughout the baits whilst on the bank. It is important for the baits to receive as much fresh air as possible when on the bank, so keep moving the baits about within the air-dry bag so they receive as much air as possible. On short sessions this is perfect, as the baits will still remain fresh and fairly soft for use within your fishing and perfect for the

carp to eat.

"To make your baits last longer whilst on the bank for longer periods of time, it is still important to air-dry your baits, letting them receive as much air as possible. Air-drying will make your baits last up to a few weeks whilst on the bank, but the longer they are being air-dried, more moisture is being removed and you will notice the baits becoming harder and smaller. These baits are still perfectly okay to use but will not be as instantly attractive to the fish compared to baits that have been air-drying for fewer days once removed from the freezer.

"Freezer baits that have become harder through longer periods of air-drying can be brought 'back to life' through a process called rehydration. This is a simple process that will mean your harder, less attractive baits will be re-fuelled with all the attraction they had when taken from the freezer, creating a bait that will catch you a carp a lot quicker than a bait which has been air-drying for a period of time.

"To do this is very simple: a few hours before you come to bait up, remove the required amount of freezer baits from the air dry bags. These baits then need to be placed into a bag ready to apply your liquids you have chosen to use to rehydrate the baits. Add just enough of your chosen liquid to lightly coat your baits in the bag.



Don't add too much liquid because you don't want the freezer baits glazed, you just want enough so all the baits have a thin coating around them. Next, seal the bag and give it a good shake to disperse the liquid evenly over all of the baits. Feedstim XP from CC Moore is my personal choice due to its thin, watery makeup lending itself perfectly for rehydrating air-dried freezer baits.

"Leave these baits for a few hours before baiting up with the bag opened and the liquid dispersed over the baits. You will notice that after a few hours the liquid coated baits will have absorbed all that goodness and now will be full of attraction again just like fresh baits straight from the freezer."



LIFE AFTER BOILIES

ALTERNATIVE CARP BAITS

Q My new water has a boilie ban, what other baits could I use as an alternative? Rob Horton, via e-mail

A "There are plenty of waters around that don't allow the use of boilies, but there is nothing to worry about with such a huge array of different types of awesome carp-catching baits around," reassures Alex Grice. "Like a lot of anglers today, boilies are a first port of call when it comes to carp bait but there are so many other devastating baits that are sometimes overlooked in my opinion that are just as good for getting bites.

"I am a great fan of using pellets; there is no doubt that pellets are phenomenal at attracting and enticing carp to feed. There are many shapes, sizes and flavours of pellets on the market today that provide great opportunities when fishing for carp. With so many different pellets you can without doubt make some of the best mixes using various sizes and shapes that will not only make the

fish much easier to catch but will also be a lot more instantly attractive than boilies. Using a blend of different sized pellets will offer many bait items for the carp which will keep them feeding for hours, as the different sizes breakdown at staggered speeds. My preference for pellets is smaller sizes, these usually being 1 to 4mm in size, but it's also a good bet to add a few larger ones which could be used as hookbait options. CC Moore's readymade Mini-Ultramix pellets are a top blend of small, highly attractive pellets that are great for all manner of application. Pellets lend themselves perfectly for use in PVA bags, spod mixes and Method mixes alike and really do add pulling power when used in conjunction with other baits or on their own. To further enhance and boost the attraction properties of your pellets try using a liquid bait dip when using PVA bags or to lightly coat the pellets before baiting up.

"Hempseed is another

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great alternative loose feed bait and compliments many other types of alternative hookbaits like sweetcorn and tiger nuts. This natural product is one of the best baits of all time and creates a fantastic feeding response from carp. CC Moore's Intense Hemp is a great, oily particle that when used in conjunction with pellets provides a great fish pulling loose feed. And, by adding a few larger pellets or sweetcorn freebies means you have many options for use as hookbaits as well.

"To really spice up your hemp, experiment by adding different liquids and additives to create a super boosted carpet feed. In general, try to keep your hookbait small when fishing over hempseed, a few grains of plastic corn or a small 8mm pellet will be much more readily taken than a large hookbait because of it being a lot more blatant over a large bed of smaller items. Another great tip when using a blend of hemp and other small particles is to add a light coating of



GET IT ANSWERED!

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QUESTION@MAXIMUMCARP.NET

boiling water to the mix, this will really kick-start the bait and release all the natural oils present working from the off when introduced into the water.

"Finally, there are so many alternative hookbaits available in many colours and sizes. Bright single hookbaits will catch carp in all circumstances be it orange, yellow or white. The colours are endless and it always pays to keep changing the colours to see what's working best. Other than bright single baits there are many pellet types hookbaits in many flavours, these work really well in conjunction with small bags of pellets. The Bloodworm Hookbaits and pellets from CC Moore being my favourite and a great carp-catcher on all types of water.

"There simply is so many types of bait other than boilies available that will catch carp without question. Keep trying different bait types and you'll find your results will be just as good that you may never have to use boilies again!"