

Andy's Mirror Pool magic – again!

After a very successful session earlier in the year we were delighted to hear from Andy McHale again after another trip to the well know Mirror Pool in France.

Upon his return, Andy reported:

"Having spent less time than preferable on my syndicate due to work commitments, I was overjoyed to receive an email from Rob at Mirror Pool informing me of a cancellation, and did I want to book the week? Obviously this was a no brainer, and I organised a week with my good friend Les Smith.

We arrived at the lake early Saturday, the conditions were good, but looking at the catch report log, which was a bit sparse, we were a little apprehensive about our chances so wanted to get the rods out as soon as possible. Having recently done well on Mirror Pool (in August) I decided to start with a similar set up with which I had success last time. This comprised of glugged Odyssey XXX 12 x 16 barrel bottom baits, tipped with white 12mm Northern Specials over Odyssey XXX pellets.

Saturday, Sunday and Monday came and went without a single liner, but perseverance is the game in carp fishing, and especially on Mirror Pool, which is tricky at the best of times. I decided on Tuesday morning to change tactics on one of my rods and one of Les's rods. Having fished this venue on more than one occasion previously, I know the carp here like sweetcorn so decided to put out a rig I call the scratcher. This consists of two grains of real corn, and one grain of artificial corn, and I fished this over crumbed Odyssey XXX and Mini Ultramix Pellets. This rig attracted the nuisance fish and within an hour of being in the water all that was left was one grain of artificial corn. Another tactical change was required.

I still wanted to continue fishing a similar presentation but needed something tougher to withstand the nuisance fish. Glancing into the bait bucket provided the answer. Yellow Northern Special barrels were the way to go, one of these tipped with a piece of fake corn looked very similar to the previous presentation. This rod went back out on the spot.

At around 4 p.m. Tuesday I received a couple of beeps on this presentation, I glanced down at the rod to see the swinger hit the rod - I was away.

After a 15 minute intense fight I slipped the net under a lovely 57lb 4oz mirror, the presentation worked perfectly.



Whilst doing the photo's Les's rod on the same set up was also away. This resulted in a 23lb 10oz mirror (which was unusual for Mirror Pool). I decided to put this presentation on two of my rods and two of Les's. At 12.05 Wednesday morning the same rod was away again for me, resulting in a 50lb 2oz mirror.



My confidence in this presentation was proven, and I didn't have to wait too long for another take on the other rod that I had switched to this presentation. A 44lb 12oz mirror graced my net on Thursday at 4 a.m. something I didn't mind getting out of my bag for.

I decided to put this presentation on my third rod, this resulted in a take at 6.30 Friday morning - a 39lb 14oz mirror. Les managed to bag a nice common of 29lb 12oz.

It just goes to show that if you use and have confidence in a quality product, then it does work. Regards Andy."

Well done on another great result Andy and thanks for your report.