

MOORLAND FISHERIES PERSONAL DIARY

6TH JUNE 2009

With the lake booked for just 4 anglers I decided that it would give me a chance to fish. The previous week had seen some of the anglers struggle because the carp fry from last year were attacking the bait and the two anglers who fished the dog-leg and boneyard swims were particularly scathing about the fact that the small fish made it “impossible to present a bait for the large carp.”

I had maximum confidence in the latest bait that we were using, having spent all of last year discussing and developing it with Ian Moore of CC Moore. We had recently added a couple of “tweaks” to it and these were now allowing the bait to maintain its flavour for at least 12 hours in the lake. I now needed to test it personally and to work out how to present it efficiently. I knew that it could be hard work because of the hot weather conditions but I also know that you only get out a percentage of what you put in and some carp anglers expect to simply cast out a bait anywhere and wait for a carp to pick it up. My confidence was high because I knew that my rigs and the bait worked, having already landed three forties and a fifty on them during the spring of 2009.

I started fishing during the afternoon of **Saturday 30th May 2009** and began catching almost immediately with a catfish of **25.00 lb** and carp of **20.03 lb, 27.14 lb & 29.07 lb**. Very pleasing but not indicative of the need to work for them. I used 2 ounce running rigs without tubing or leaders and a 7 inch combi hook link tied with ESP Ghost and Sinklink combination. The braid section of the link was 10mm and the hook was a size 5 ESP Curveshank with a 20mm gap between the hook and the bait. The hook baits were the new version of the “Moorland Special Live System” from CC Moore and I decided to fish double 14mm baits on the hair. I watched the fish action and decided that it would need regular baiting with 20 to 40 baits every couple of hours or so and that the hook baits would need freshening just as frequently. The afternoon temperature remained in the mid thirties and the water temperature sat at 26 degrees. I put on fresh baits at 7 in the evening and spread 40 freebies over each rod. Thirty minutes later the bobbin climbed to the rod but the line didn't pull out of the clip. I convinced myself that the rod was “trembling” and lifted into what was obviously a heavy fish. A slow plodding fight resulted in a good mirror sliding over the net and the scales lit up at **47.12 lb**. It turned out to be “Chunky” at her best ever weight so I was already very pleased.



Chunky, the first forty of the week's campaign at 47.12



This 43.02lb Common was the second forty.

I decided to bait slightly heavier overnight and whether this was a mistake or not, or the carp simply moved away the rest of the night and all day **Sunday 31st May** remained quiet. I was still convinced that the regular baiting was the way forward and while I was getting occasional knocks from the small fish they weren't really too much of a problem. I did then decide to use 18mm baits as my freebies in order to try and keep bait out there for longer and to make the fry work harder for their free meals, thereby, hopefully, attracting the bigger fish by their actions.

The early hours of **Monday 1st June** produced the next take with a **common** of **37.01 lb** and then the middle of the day produced a **25.00 lb moggy**. I continued to bait regularly and then as darkness fell the middle rod absolutely melted away. It was again an obviously heavy and powerful fish which stripped many yards of line against the clutch on several occasions. Eventually I saw

the flash of common scales and the fish slid over the net cord. In the water she looked a good thirty again and I was extremely surprised when I tried to lift her out. She was, perhaps the deepest and broadest **common** that I have ever caught and she strained the scales round to **43.02 lb**.

I continued with my target of winding in and re-baiting every 3 hours throughout the day and night and kept casting back onto the baited patches. During breakfast the following morning one of the anglers on the other bank was amazed that I hadn't caught more because he was convinced that the carp had been rolling over my bait during the night. As I knew it would be difficult to tell, in darkness, exactly where they were rolling in relation to my bait I began to wonder whether they were sitting just off of my bait.

By casting just short of the bait **Tuesday 2nd June** produced a **33.00 lb mirror** and then, at **2.30 am**, within an hour of forcing myself to wind in and re-bait, the bobbin was again lifted to the rod. I can remember saying to myself "I'll take that" and I lifted into another heavy lump. This fish suddenly exploded into life and ran me ragged for half an hour until it slid into the net. I knew the minute that I saw the fish in the net that it was another good **mirror** and it stretched the scales to **44.03 lb**.



A very slow take produced the third forty at 44.03lb

The rest of **Wednesday 3rd June** produced cats of **20.00 lb** and **49.04 lb** and mirrors of **28.06 lb** and **34.05 lb**.

It was just before breakfast on **Thursday 4th June** that the alarm again rattled off and a long slow fight saw a mirror of **43.06 lb** complete my set of four forties for the week. This was also the day that my youngest daughter Sharon received the news that the biopsy test that she had had to have done on a tumour returned the results that it was benign so the 43.06 became named "benign."



The now called Benign fish at 43.06lb.

The rest of that day and night produced further **catfish of 20.00 lb, 30.00 lb and 31.08 lb** and **mirrors of 30.11 lb and 33.02 lb**.

The early morning of **Friday 5th June** produced two more **mirrors of 27.01 lb and 35.01 lb** before I packed up at breakfast time.

I ended the week with 22 fish including 7 catfish to 49.04 lb, 15 carp including 6 thirties and four forties to 47.12 lb.

Keith Moors