

CC Moore Not Just for Carp Anglers

Part 2

by Ashley Ward

After an unexpectedly brief early summer carping campaign targeting and catching a rather large Common Carp, I have thoroughly enjoyed my summer and autumn of Barbel fishing on my local stretches of both the Tidal and Non-Tidal River Trent. I have had some mega results and caught some fantastic fish using the CC Moore product range.

With my summer and autumn fling with Barbel now over, and my mind now set on a long hard winter campaign on a Nene Valley Complex targeting 3 lakes containing six or seven 40lb plus carp, it is with a heavy heart that I pen this piece knowing my barbel fishing is over for the year. After such a good summer with the barbel fishing I feel like I must be mad walking away now when the river conditions are getting better, with more coloured water and the barbel getting towards their best weights, but the draw of empty banks on the lakes and them big scaley Carp in their winter colours is just too much to ignore. ➔

*M*y Barbel fishing this year has been quite productive as I highlighted in part one of this two part article and I feel this success is due to a number of things. The biggest factors in my success have been

1. *Hard work, moving swims day and night to find fish*
2. *Regular baiting and recasting, keeping the bait going in, meaning setting my alarm for every 45 minutes to an hour, even through the night.*
3. *Quality Bait, which I will cover in depth.*
4. *Simple yet effective tactics which again, I will look at later in this article.*

*F*ishing on some rivers can be frustrating and there are many factors that could put people off of fishing the rivers, but with a little effort and perseverance the results are there to be had. The pictures on the right of this page are just a few of the things you come across especially if you are a weekend angler, but with a bit of patience I always find it evens itself out and you get paid back for your efforts. You often see anglers writing **Effort = Reward** in articles and I totally agree with this, I have lost count of the times I have been found shouting choice word and turning the air blue at boat traffic but the perseverance and effort has paid dividends. ➔



“Sunday day-trippers”



“Bloody rowers”



“Swim invaders”

The application of a quality bait is important in all aspects of fishing, Barbel fishing is no different and luckily for me CC Moore covers all my bait needs for all aspect of my fishing. I am now going to look at the bulk feed baits that I use, the liquids and powder additives I use with these as well as my hookbaits.

1. Bulk baits

The bulk baits I have been using in my barbel fishing this year are shown in this picture. The main loose feed I have been using has been a mixture of Betaine H.N.V pellets in various sizes. For those who don't know H.N.V stand for High Nutritional Value and this is something CC Moore prides itself on, only the best ingredients go into their bait and this is what makes them so effective. Also the

Betaine adds to the quality of the pellet, Betaine includes Hydrochloric Acid which again adds to the quality of the bait, this is a proven additive that seems to stimulate feeding activity, probably due to what the fish gains by eating it. Betaine adds many nutritional and palatable values to a bait and is a proven winner when mixed with Green Lipped Mussel which is also included in this bait. I have also been using the new Elips Pellets which have a very similar make up to the standard Betaine H.N.V pellets.



Groundbait is another inclusion in my bulk food when using a swim feeder and the groundbaits I go for are the Active Feast (shown left) and the Fish Frenzy XP. Active Feast includes water flies, snails, shrimps, daphnia, insect eggs and other 'naturals' which makes it a very attractive bait, on the other hand the Fish Frenzy has a fish base and is excellent for adding your own choice of attractors. →

2. Liquid and Powder Additives



“Liquid Additives”



“Powdered Additives”

Above are the liquid and powder additives that I use most in my bait application and below are my two favourite combinations to turbo my pellets for that ultimate attraction before I put them into PVA bags. This can be a bit messy sometimes when casting so regular, but if you don't fancy getting your hand covered in this lot just simply dip you bait and PVA bags in your chosen attractor. My favourite for dipping is shown on the right although Trout / Halibut pellet oil is also very effective



Robin Red a classic bait additive used along side the mega Feedstim XP, absolutely deadly



The awesome combination of Betaine and GLM with the Marine Amino

3. Hookbaits

All of my barbel this year have been caught using only 4 different hookbaits, the 3 baits pictured below are all from the CC Moore range, the other being maggots that i sometimes use on my swim feeder rod for the instant bites.

1.



80% of the barbel that I have caught this year have fallen to the trusty Betaine H.N.V pellets. As I've previously said I use these pellets in mixed sizes for my loose feed and then use a 14mm or 18mm pellet for the hookbaits. People sometimes worry about the size of their hookbaits and think that 18mm is too big when it really isn't. One session this year I was getting quite a few small fish on one particular spot, so after a dig around in my hookbait bucket I found an old bag of 22mm pellets, and on my first cast with one of these it produced an 8lb fish. If an 8lb fish can take that then there really is no need to worry about 18mm baits.

Another hookbait option for the barbel are the little Betaine H.N.V barrel shaped baits which CC Moore stock in little pots, these hookbaits are quite tough and come pre-soaked in an oily bait glug that add enormously to the attraction. These are a good option to eliminate having to cast every hour or so to check your bait is ok, these really are just like little pellet shaped boilies.

2.



My final bait is one I stumbled across by accident when targeting the river carp. The N-Gage XP boilie range has produced phenomenal catches for the carp anglers this year all over the country, but I have found that the barbel also like them. I tend to drop a kilo or so in my bucket with the pellets to take on the smell and oils, you can see in the picture how oily the baits look and how its soaked deep into the split bait. These have also produced a few bites for me whilst barbel fishing and it does seem that they are mostly of a good size when they do.

3.



4. Tactics and Rigs



“150 PVA bags ready to go”



“ Strong end Tackle”



“ An absolute must”

There is one thing I always make sure I do before I go fishing for Barbel and that is to be well prepared. This means tying lots of PVA bags for all the recasts and I can use up to 150 in some sessions, lots of rigs as the hook points can get turned over so easy on there rocky stretches of rivers, plenty of good quality leaders are necessary as well as the preparation of the required groundbaits, pellets, maggots. Etc.

Another must for Barbel fishing is good quality strong and tackle. Whether you are fishing on them narrow meandering type rivers with overhanging trees or the big rocky tidal rivers full of snags, these big barbel will run you ragged and smash you of if you end tackles not upto the job. I still use the same 45lb leadcore leaders I use when Carp fishing and the same reliable size 8 hooks and strong hook links, however I do tend to drop down the weight of my mono hooklinks so that the baits act more natural in the flow.

One last thing I tend to do is touch up my hook point on every cast, this is an absolute must, just a couple of rubs with a hook sharpener to bring back the edge. I wouldn't cast out with a blunt hook when Carp fishing and my Barbel fishing is no different even if it is hard for a hook to fall out of their big rubbery chops.

4. Tactics and Rigs Continued



“Rigs kept simple”

Rigs when Barbel fishing can be kept very simple. This image shows a very basic rig which I use for 75% of my Barbel angling. Leadcore leader, 6,8, or 10oz lead depending on conditions and a simple hair rig using 10lb or 15lb Korda IQ soft hooklink, and a size 8 Korda Wide Gape barbed hook. Bait shown is an 18mm Betaine pellet that I have drilled and mounted on the hair.



“Up close”

The rigs close up, this time a braided hooklink. As you can see I use running leads for most of my Barbel set ups but I have changed to semi fixed bolt rigs when bites have been finicky or hard to come by. All my rigs are 18-24” long but I have seen other anglers using 6 feet long hooklinks with some success . I suppose it about finding what suits you and what you have confidence in.



“Steady bait application”

This final rigs shows a standard open ended swim feeder, again running on the leader. The good thing about the swim feeder is that when recast regularly it allows steady bait application. I tend to fish my rod furthest up river on a swim feeder which allows any un-eaten bait to steadily trickle through your swim. At the business end of this rig I have used 2 Betaine H.N.V hookbaits that I have previously mentioned, mounted on the hair below a size 8 Korda Curv Shank which is the hook pattern I prefer for my braided hooklinks

5. Location

Location is a massive key to river fishing and it can be very hit and miss at times. I recently visited a swim in coloured conditions and had over 20 Barbel in a day, three days later I went back armed with enough food and bait to stay for 3 days, however the water was low and clear and a swim that is regarded as very productive only did me a couple of bites in 24 hours. Some of the areas and features I head for are



“Weir pools and stanchions”



“ Snags and overhanging trees ”



“ Inlets from power stations and where barrels guard weirs”



“ My Dad with a recent 13lb + Barbel on CC Moore Products”

Well I hope this piece gives you budding Barbel anglers out there a few pointer s on where to start. I can honestly say if you 're not already a CC Moore customer, get in touch with them, their bait and customer service is absolutely fantastic, they always respond to e-mails quickly and are always very helpful with advice. Until next time. Happy Angling

Ashley Ward

