

Building Confidence - ANDY LOBLE

Fishing, carp fishing in particular is all about confidence especially with your choice of baits so when I was recently very kindly handed some CC Moore bait I was more than pleased. I knew their reputation and having dabbled with them in the past had some experience with them. I had been given their Tiger Nuts in Talin and Steeped Black Tiger Nuts along with Odyssey XXX boilies and various other bits and pieces. I was asked to give these ago and decided to try the new baits out on my local syndicate water. I'd done very well fishing the Tigers popped up with cork in the warmer spells just after this year's very long winter. Although the fish were not huge (up to 22lb) they were more than welcome visitors to my net and quite a number did just that.



This has been a fantastic year for me as my job has allowed me to spend copious amounts of time on the bank. This has given me a great opportunity to try out new methods and actually work a bit harder to get the fish I have been after.

So, when offered some bait to try I was more than happy to give it a go. What was the worst that could happen!

The water I have been fishing is an intimate water of about 4 acres set in woodland on a very large estate in the south of Berkshire. On many occasions I have had the lake to myself for 2 – 3 days at any one time. Which to me this is why I love this venue, fishing is about getting away from everything and being able to do your own thing. So no disturbances, just myself and the fish = a happy boy.

The stocking of the lake is not everyone's cup of tea, but get it right and the stock can provide some great fishing. There is a small number of fish between 12 and 16lb with a good head between 17 – 21lb and these are backed up by a good head of lovely fish between the 21lb and 24lb mark. Also resident are a number of fish around the 26-27 lb mark and then 3 fish which float around the 30lb mark. These 3 fish have been my main target but they are not the most forth coming and don't appear every season and nor do they stay in one area. All the fish are stunning and a joy to catch and certainly like to put a worth fight.

With a selection of CC Moore's bait in my armoury (my freezer) I decided to give one of CC Moore's firm favourites a go. A bait I have used in the past and had reasonable success on and also a bait which has landed some fantastic carp over the years including fish like Heather from the Yateley complex (sadly Heather has left us RIP).

Knowing the lake contains no bream and little or no Tench and also the limited pressure from other anglers I stood a good chance of getting the carp weaned onto the bait fairly quickly. I was spending most evenings and a few over nighters down there but had not done a proper session. With the opportunity to get a two nighter done in three weeks time I knew I had a short window to start introducing the bait.

Having spent the amount of time down at the lake I already knew the best areas to begin baiting to avoid wasting bait and time.

We were in the middle of a cold snap and no one had reported any fish on the bank other than a few I had managed to snare on the CC Moore Tigers in Talin popped up with a cork insert, but times were tough. The lake does not respond well during cold snaps and this was proving to be one of those times.

With the two nighter a day away (mid May) I checked the weather report. I couldn't believe my eyes as the cold snap was about to end, the wind was turning round to a south-westerly/westerly and the temperature was going to stay around 8C over night and the temp to rise to 18C during the day with low pressure. There was also some rain forecast just to stir things up a little. Was I just lucky or one extremely jammy git! Thank you fishing gods!

The evening finally arrived for the start of my session. It was a Saturday evening so was expecting to not have much choice of swim, as the lake had been surprisingly pack on the Friday evening when I had a blank four hour session. To my delight the lake was empty! Sat evening and coming to the close of the syndicate season and it was empty! Could I have any more perfect conditions and now a lake all to myself to try out the bait; I was beaming like a kid in a candy store.



In my bait bag I had the Odyssey XXX in 18mm, not a size I would normally use. I like to keep things small and light especially on a water where I know there is no nuisance fish. So I intended to trim down the baits to about a 14mm size. I also had XXX liquid and Red Venom liquid. I find it can be useful to give the hook baits and sometimes the small PVA bags an extra boost.

The Red venom especially leaves a fantastic trickling cloud from where it hits the surface all the way down to the bait. This has got to be good at stopping passing fish in their tracks and entice them down through the water columns to my dinner plate just waiting for them!

I always carry a selection of pop ups with me as you never know what mood the carp are going to be in. I find it useful to be able to mix things up. I have of late been playing around with balancing my baits and tipping them, a method that seems to be landing many other anglers fish from all over the place. I have decided to play around with the CC Moore Hookbaits and see how they fare.



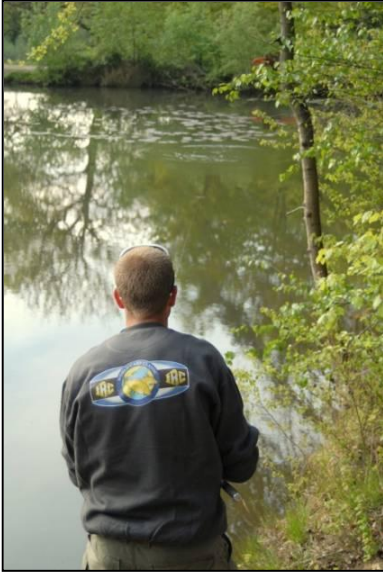
I am not using anything complicated at the business end, about 2ft of lead core with a small amount of putty around the lead core and main line (16lb Ultima Power Carp) to pin it down, a fine uncoated sinking braid hook link to a size 7 wide gape hook. One set up on a basic blow back and the other on a basic knotless knot with a bit of shrink tube bent at the end to increase hooking potential.

Each of my XXX baits are drilled and a cork insert is added. When baiting the hook I used a trimmed down pop up as a tip/sighter trying a

different one each cast and slowly sussing out which the fish prefer. Once on the hair I was then trimming down the baits very roughly, this helped the baits soak up more of the chosen glug making the baits leach the scent for even longer. I know drilling out baits is not always ideal as water can penetrate and break the baits down more quickly. However I am not intending to leave my rigs out for very long period so I can get away with it.



There is no need to be overly complicated as the pressure on the water is very low and I am going to be fishing close to the margins so bait placement is going to be fairly accurate.



My spots were chosen and some bait trickled in over a 2 meter area on each, about 20 boilies on each. One was under an overhanging tree and next to some pads. I hadn't seen many fish moving through here but the fish I had seen were of a good size. I was hoping I might be able to pick them off and also that they were the larger residents.



The other area was 4ft from the bank just off from a corner set of pads. The bait was in and all I need to do was get the traps set.

The lake was looking idyllic and the weather perfect. It was still pretty warm, there was no sign of it cooling and it was already 8.30pm. There hadn't been much movement or fish showing but I was too worried as I knew they were going to get their heads down as everything just seemed to click.

Sadly come 10pm Josh Sanders who had come down to very kindly to be photographer had to part to treat his man flu and get back to the books. Fish science exams at Sparsholt College were looming. No fish pics for the camera man, sorry Josh.



I settled myself down for the night fingers crossed the Odyssey XXX was going to do the biz. Shortly after putting my head down my right hand rod screamed off. This was the one close to the pads and on a known patrol route. I didn't have much space to play the fish but soon had the first fish of the session in the net, 20.4lb not a bad start. Photos were taken and fish returned and bait replaced along with a number of rumbled freebies and whole baits around the area. It wasn't until 1am that the same rod screamed off and another twenty, 22.14lb.





Everything was perfect and the fish had turned on. Would there be more..... Well... I had another three fish at 13.6lb mirror, 19.1lb common and a 22.12lb mirror between 5am and 7am then things quietened off. Already three twenties and two smaller fish. Not bad considering nothing has been out for two weeks.



All had been taken on the one rod and I had used a different tip each time. CC Moore 'Fruit Plum', 'Acid Pear Drop', 'Blue Squid', 'Strawberry Ice Cream' and Perfect Pineapple did the business at some point over the session. The only one I have still yet to try is the 'Chocolate Lime' but there is still plenty of time.



The rod to the left under the tree hadn't been touched and I was wandering where to relocate it. I saw fish mid morning lump out in the corner opposite me. This is an area I have had a number of fish from in the past so it was decided. I bought both rods in and walked quickly round to the area and introduce a good helping of the XXX, whole and crumbled creating a good 3m diameter dinner plate. On my return to the rods I got the right hand rod back out on the spot and topped the free samples up. Then clipped the left hand rod up. Trimmed bait topped with a CC Moore Fruit Plum pop up and a small £1 sized PVA bag of crushed XXX went out on the spot. A number of fish came to this spot during the day and night.

To cut a long story short I had fish hard throughout the day until I packed up. The last day saw the temp rising steeply and the fish enjoying their first basking session for ages. It was going to be difficult to get a bite out of the carp but with 12 fish already landed I was sure I could sneak one



off the top. I moved swims with a surface rod in hand a few chum mixers lightly covered in CC Moore's Red Venom. Sadly on this venue there are a handful of ducks that are always very pleased to see dog biscuits. With this in mind I never chuck out freebies as you end up catching fowl not fish. Instead the single hook bait was slightly hidden under lily I generally manage to avoid detection from birds but not un-noticed by fish. I sat for quite some time being the patient chap I am without a sniff from the passing carp. I did notice carp moving across the swim, they were no more than a foot from the bank in only 2 foot of water and a good sized. I raced back to base camp and grabbed one of the other rods and a few boilies. After sprinkling a few crumbled XXX baits tight into the margin I lowered the baited rig into position. No need for bite alarm here, I was sat on the rod and baitrunner on just in case of an aggressive take. Within less than 10minutes the rod tip whacked round and line screamed off the reel. I had hoped for a larger fish but sadly it wasn't to be. Instead a very stunning 16lb mirror.

Things got very slow after this fish so I decided to pack down. I had had a session on the lake the likes of which are unheard of, 5 or 6 fish maybe but not 13.

Once packed down I decided I could not leave it at unlucky 13 so stayed until I had a fish off the surface. I had a go at the other end of the lake to where I had been fishing and a number of fish had grouped up in the pads. I got a visit from Ralph Dennett, who was a welcome guest. He couldn't have timed it better as after pulling the bait from a good sized fish I finally connected with a smallish carp. It sadly made a dive for the pads and I couldn't get it to turn, it was stuck firmly in the pads. Now being the kind man I am I didn't want to leave line wrapped round the pads and the possibility of tethering the fish no matter how big or small. So... like a few times before I went in after the fish. Ralph found this hilarious and possibly has a couple of funny pics. I was up to my chest in the pads in nothing but my boxers. 15 minutes later and the 16.6lb mirror is safely in the net and number 14 has been reached.

With two nights completed and no more bait left I called it day.

Since this session I been down and caught another 10 fish on three separate occasions including a number of 20's the largest being 23lb and my final fish of the season. The season is now closed until August and I will be rejoining as I have unfinished business. The 30's will be mine, oh yes they will be mine.



It is fair to say I have full confidence in Odyssey XXX and the Tigers in Talin and who wouldn't after a session like that. Although not the biggest fish in the world they are certainly cracking fish and from a water that although small does not always play ball.

The bait range that CC Moore has to offer is vast and covers most of my fishing strategies. All the boilies in the range are made from high quality ingredients and create a decent food source that will become even more effective in catching consistently once the bait has been applied correctly. I have found from even my first decent test that once the fish got a taste for these baits they just want more!

I am going to be moving onto a local canal to continue testing the CC Moore range. It doesn't open until the magical 16th June so have started baiting a couple of areas in the hope I can get them hooked like the carp on the syndicate lake. I also have a couple of other lakes I mind, one with a number of 30's and known mid 40. The other lake holds a fish which currently will swing the needle round to 50lb.

Before I get a chance to fish these waters I will be fishing in a charity carp match 'Carpin 4 Cancer' on the Richworth Linear Complex over the weekend of the 18th-20th June. After coming 2nd and landing the largest fish at last year's event in the midlands, I have high hopes for this year's event. Let's hope we raise plenty of money in the process.

I will definitely be giving some more of the CC Moore range ago during this event so who knows there may be a short report on it in a few weeks time.

I would like to thank Josh Sanders for his fantastic photography skills. Josh is currently completing his degree in Fish Science and Fishery Management at Sparsholt College. He came along last year to the World Carp Classic to marshal and is now getting more involved with the event.

Andy Loble – World Carp Classic

CHECK OUT

www.ccmoore.com - they have loads of great info some useful hints and tips, and stack loads of quality bait.

www.ultimauk.com – I have been using the Ultima Power Carp which is a fluorocarbon coated mono line, it has very high abrasion resistance and has not let me down even fishing some nasty snags giving me full confidence in its ability. Ultima released a pure fluorocarbon line called 'Pure Power Fluorocarbon' it definitely looks worth checking out.

www.carpin4cancer.com – the match I shall be entering under the name of The World Carp Classic!!!