

# On A Stour Mission Part 1

*By Jason Stewart May 2011*

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Wow it feels great to even be back on the bank carp fishing after a few years out, let alone chasing personal dreams for the photo album around a gravel pit! As most of us can relate too, finding time to even go angling within our own lives is hard enough, what with work, families and bills to pay we can't all live the life of luxury on the bank 3-4 days a week. So we need to use the time available to us effectively to chase down our targets. Now time is something I have little of, so I am slowly getting use to short sessions catching where I can!

The lake I am focusing my efforts on is Mid Kent Fisheries Stour Lake, set deep in the heart of Kents Stour valley the lake holds many beauties worth dangling for. The Starburst, Lumpy, The Peach and Two Tone to name a few, but every carp in the lake is worthy of a snapshot as they are just amazing looking fish. The stall was set I was going to use my precious days in search of the above off from May as this was the start of the 2011 season. I briefly knew parts of the lake from last season as I had one lucky session there the previous year landing a 30lb Mirror, 22lb Mirror and 29lb Fully in a short day session though I stupidly didn't return that season.



22lb 2oz Mirror



29lb 3oz Fully Scaled Mirror

Checking the weather being a cold northerly wind the same as the previous year, I knew it would be powering down towards pylon island. So after opening the gates on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May for the first time that was probably where I would be heading. After a lap of the lake and most of the angling pressure being as usual at the carp park end at the back of the wind I loaded the barrow and made the walk down to swim 9 which meant I could attack the island and the channel to the shallows! With only one angler to my left further up the bank, I had a lead about and found 3 clear spots to which I could spread the rods out evenly. Hookbaits were now CCMoores XXX which I will be piling in this season with matching pellets. After positioning the rods and puling 10-15 baits around each I settled down with the kettle on and watched the water, hoping my conclusion would pay off and the fish would be homing in!

All afternoon the fish were head and shouldering an rolling over the top of my first 2 rods. Which is very frustrating at times especially when a large mirror then decides he wants to crash fully out of the water twice just for my eye view. This meant I was on the edge of my seat and I dare not move the rods. After a number of brews later

evening was approaching and the alarms were silent. I re-did the rods and repositioned them for the hopefully busy night ahead. After quite a few liners during the night I was awoken by the first train heading towards Canterbury West at just after five. I stuck the kettle on and lay there watching the misty water. After about an hour I had 2 vigorous bleeps on the third rod which was stuck in the channel and suddenly the rod tip locked up and an angry carp was now attached...

The fish kited towards the large weedbed in front of pylon island where I was met with solid resistance. As we've all had the feeling at this point my heart was in my mouth and the doubts started to kick in about actually landing this fish. I decided to walk down the bank to get a direct line angle with the fish. Finally it started to move and as the weed freed its face, like a torpedo the carp went on 3 spool ripping runs. 5 minutes later a lovely 25lb Mirror lay in my net.



Well I was absolutely made up and after no further action couldn't wait to return. I got in a further 2 sessions of 12 - 17 hours only landing 2 eels and a 7lb 6oz Tench. I am now clucking to get back in the middle of juggling work and right weather conditions. Until part 2 of my mission do take care of yourself.

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