

## B&B by Ken South

### The Brentwood Carp Show and Bentley Fishery

The last weekend of January and I am due to be in attendance at the Brentwood Carp Show. Now previous years when I have been at the show I have booked myself into a hotel but due to the harsh winter that we have experienced I decided to find a day ticket fishery to stay at. The idea I had was to attend the show during the day, and then to fish the nights.

Good old Google found me Bentley Fishery and a quick look through their web site soon had me on the phone booking up a place on the lake for the Friday and Saturday nights.

I left home early in the morning and arrived at Bentley Fishery as the light was breaking and I must say that I was more than impressed as I walked down to the lake. The way Bentley is set up means that you park your car in the equestrian centre. You then either load your carp barrow or carry your kit down to the lake. The parking is totally secure as is the lake as you can only fish at Bentley if you have booked in advance.



A quick look and I decided to set up in the Gate Swim, with a right hand weedy margin and two islands directly in front of me with a nice wide channel offered me more than enough variety for my nights ahead of me. I was soon set up and I set about tying my rigs to my running rota set up.

On my left hand rod I tied a snowman rig constructed using Jelly Wire and a PB Anti-eject hook. My Live System bottom bait was topped with a new yellow Northern Special and was attached using the Thinking Anglers micro hook swivel and the blobbing technique as illustrated by that clever thinking angler Ben Hamilton in Decembers CC Moore's TV.

My right hand rod was mounted with my usual pop-up rig using my version of the John Mac rig. My 14mm Live System pop up was mounted on a size 6 Continental boilie hook that was attached to a length of Skin-Less which being slightly stiffer than the Jelly Wire helps to offset the hook.

Both rods were cast to the open water and I sat back on my bedchair and put the kettle on.

To be honest it was freezing and after a couple of hours I reeled in and left the fishery and went to set up my stand in the marquee. Once again I had been invited to attend the Carp Show at Brentwood by Lee, he is the frantic looking guy you see running around like a hooked carp and it is Lee who organises the show each year, and each year it just gets bigger!

Each year I spend the weekend trying to make the task of rig tying and bait application during the colder months a little less complicated. This year I was very fortunate to also have on show a number of soon to be released and new products from CC Moore. These included the glugged hookbaits, the new yellow and red Northern Specials and the Krill and worm liquids.



These were displayed throughout the weekend and did they get some attention? They sure did, in fact I could have easily sold the display products to eager anglers. The new colours in the Northern Special range were being passed round group after group of anglers and as for the glugged hookbaits, well these were shaken and opened more times than an Essex's girls handbag.

Top product was the triple x glugged hookbaits and I was quite taken back by just how many carp anglers I met over the course of the weekend, who are on this particular bait.



I took some bags of the Live System to the show as this was the bait I use during the colder months and my supply steadily went down as interested anglers asked if they could take some to try.

Brentwood is always a busy and very social weekend and I was busy all weekend, on the rig front the PB Jelly Wire went down well with anglers who had read about it, my take on the running helicopter got some thinking anglers talking and arguing (some things never change) and the PB cutters were loved by all that tried them.

The weather however was freezing and on my return to Bentley on Saturday night the lake was already starting to freeze up. (I must be mad)

Even though it was freezing, windy and I was there on my own, it still looked great. It has a Yateley type feel about it and the owner has really worked hard on making the fishery fantastic. It's secure, peaceful, pretty and abound with various features. It really is, a truly proper lake.

Sunday I awoke to some very picturesque frozen lines, oh well that's nice or do I mean ice? I packed up in the dark and drove to the show. Sunday was busy too, and again the products caused a huge interest. I tied more rigs on Sunday, which is why I go and when the crowds had died down I decided to disappear and headed for my beloved Kent and home.



My next show is the Five Lakes and I will be there on Sunday I believe as a guest of Wychwood which will be different, they have some new shelters and being a broolly angler, these I believe will be right up my street or in my swim.

I am just finishing writing this article on my Mac whilst fishing on Bridges which is part of the Monks Lake Complex. I'm using the new glugged Live System hookbaits and caught a fish within the hour so that's a result. I would love to say that the sun is out but its not, never mind!

Hopefully if any of you go to Five Lakes then maybe I will see you!