

CAMPAIGN AT CACKLE

By Ken CS

Tackle and Bait

In part one of the Alternative Approach I introduced you to a complex of waters in the Weald of Kent known as Cackle Hill Lakes. Now in Part Two I will endeavour to explain the way I fish and how that affects my choice of tackle and bait along with the reasoning behind the methods that I will be adopting and that I will use to start my Cackle campaign.

Most of my sessions will be single overnights and with the summer slowly subsiding into winter my tackle will feature a couple of items that I do not take during the summer.

Through out the spring, summer and autumn months my overnight accommodation comes in the form of a very old Hog broly system which is lightweight and is based upon the oval broly. Its extreme winter wrap comes in the form of a spool of silver duck tape.

My choice of winter shelter is an S7 which I use with all the fronts removed, so that it becomes in essence a luxury broly. The extra coverage that the S7 has provides a greater level of protection from the wind and rain and the twin skin construction that eliminates condensation makes winter carp fishing very comfortable.


For fishing on the match and mixed lakes I will use my 2lb test curve, through action rods with a pair of Gold spools loaded with 15lb Bullet line, the reason for this is that the island on the match lake is a fair cast and in my experience the Bullet line casts well and the tapered spools technology helps the 2lb test curve when casting to this the distance require to this feature. The use of a heavy main line is because the use of leaders on the Cackle complex is restricted but I will cover this later.

The Specimen Lake requires that a rod with a minimum test curve of 2.75lb is used so my old AKN's will be used and are still paired with my trusty SS3000's that are loaded with 18lb line. The heavy line sinks well which is a major plus as the fishing on the Specimen Lake is all short range, but the reeds and snags in the lake must be considered and respected, so the thick diameter of the heavier line will provide good abrasive protection which when matched to the AKN's unique tapers which combines a powerful backbone with a through action will allow maximum pressure, to be applied through the length of the blank when playing a hooked angry carp in these type of confined surroundings

Now terminal tackle is always a very personal area of fishing as is bait. Now I use what I have faith in as do other anglers, like my main tackle items I tend to stick with what works.

Now many top anglers have written countless times about keeping rigs simple but still this is an area that is often anything but simple.

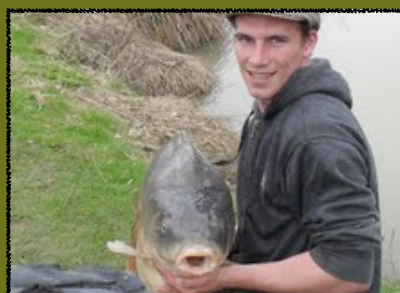
I use a curved pattern hook in size 8 and the reason for this is that I need the hook to turn quickly.



Contact Cackle on 07885 284500



A stunning English thirty from the Specimen lake.



The biggest carp on the Cackle complex.



The specimen lake produced this twenty plus grass carp for this happy angler.

A 15lb Hydrolink hook length works on all levels and instead of shrink tube I trap the hair to the bend of the hook with a little Thinking Anglers hook bead which again works, simple. The trapping of the hair to the bend of the hook means that the hook flips over every time.

The finished rig features a long hair with a single pop up. Just below the pop up a split shot is placed so that the bait wafts just of the lake bed. When the carp sucks in the light bait the weight and the hook become harder to eject and the split shot pulls the hook point downwards, you guessed it simple.

This is my main presentation and I use this for all my summer and autumn fishing. When winter moves in I sometimes fish my pop ups raised higher up on with a version of the John Mach and chod rig but I will explain this rig when I come to use it.

Earlier in the article I mentioned that the use of leaders at the fishery is restricted. The reason for this is the number of breakages and lost end tackle that the two owners have witnessed over the last few weeks.

The result is that leaders are looking likely to be banned, so my normal Thinking Anglers lead core leaders may have to stay hidden until winter arrives. Until then I will use a length of tungsten tubing with an inline lead arrangement.

Now some of the specimen lake bottom is soft clay and to combat this I will be using the "Drag back" PVA. This will allow me to pull my lead out of the clay before the PVA melts. Now you guessed it again, Simple!

So now onto bait, a topic that dominates so many carp anglers conversations. Well even after twenty plus years of carpfishing I

BAIT A FRESH APPROACH



The CC Moore Live System will be my first choice for a food based autumn and winter bait, it's creamy smell and taste will be hard to beat, and it's soft yellow colour will ensure that it is easily visible on the lakes clay bottom.

The Live System pop ups form the basis of my normal rig, the CC Moore airball pop ups require very little weight to hold them down and this makes them ideal for mechanics of the rig to work.



still prefer to leave this area of my fishing to the professionals.

Due to Cackle Hill being a popular day ticket fishery the lakes see a vast array of different baits on an almost daily basis. Boilies are the number one bait choice for most of the anglers fishing the complex and every angler will fish with their favourite boillie so trying to establish a bait in the summer will be a huge task for an individual angler so my tactic is to wait till the weather has turned slightly wetter and colder in the hope that the banks will become quieter. When this time comes I am ready to start introducing a frozen food based bait and the Live System from CC Moore is my first choice.

The LS is very different to most baits on the market and due to the make up provides the carp with a fantastic food source. Its creamy taste and smell will be instantly attractive to the carp of Cackle!

As already mentioned all my rigs use a pop up boillie and in the summer I do not try to compete with the variety of baits introduced by the other anglers. Instead I

favour a soaked particle, pellet and bolie approach. This method consists of filling a bucket with some prepared particles such as partblend, hemp and crushed nuts. To this mix I add an assortment of pellets and some N-Gage boillies. This mixture is then covered with boiling hot water which helps release oils and attractors from the various ingredient's. The boillies also swell up and become slightly washed out which gives the impression when introduced that they have been on the lake bed for a couple of days. This mixture is then introduced into the lake with a Cobra bait spoon. My single pop up is then cast with a PVA bag filled with some crushed boillies that are taken from the bucket and mixed with a little salmon oil. This method does not melt the bag and means that my pop up settles on the lake bed with an optimum amount of attraction around it.

So there you have it a brief insight into the type of tackle, rigs and bait that will be used to launch my campaign. Part three will cover my first session on the Specimen Lake, will I catch, who knows!