

A week to forget; a weekend to remember

by Spencer Wright

I was eagerly anticipating a trip to Cemex Roach Pit when a broken motor sent any plans I had firmly out the window. Instead, with Monks Pool opening its doors on Friday, I changed my plans accordingly and had to borrow my Dad's car to get to the lake after leaving work early on Friday to secure a spot.



I arrived at teatime and quickly dispatched a rod onto a pre-baited spot that had done a few fish for me through the spring. The night before I had walked the lake and saw 2 big fish rolling on the spot; a big mirror and an even bigger common- was this an omen?

The 10" combi-links were baited with double N-Gage XP bottom baits; one a 16mm barrel and one an 18mm wafter. This was soon carefully presented on the spot with a stringer attached. I'd also wrapped the leads with Belachan paste for added attraction.

Amazingly, before I'd baited my second rod I was already away. After a decent scrap I netted a nice mirror which pulled the scales down to 35-9. What a start! I sprinkled some "moore" bait over the spot and re-did the rod.

I placed the second rod on another pre-baited area and to my 3rd rod I attached a stringer of mixed sized & shaped N-Gage freebies and cast it on a silty area that I had seen fish fizzing over for the last month. I turned in chuffed with the instant result.

The next thing I knew the silt rod was away, and it was 4am. Another decent scrap ensued which ended up with me netting another similar sized fish. This time it went 34-2; this was turning into a dream session.



I had to reel in at 5.30am as I had a meeting to attend to at CCM HQ. So hot-footed it over to the mainland and managed to make it back onto the island late in the afternoon. After popping home to up the carp dog I was back off down to the lake.

I got the rods back out, using the same tactics as before and settled back with fish still in the swim.



Within an hour of dark the stringer rod roared off and after a few minutes I netted another decent mirror. It looked to be a low 30. I was just about to weigh it when my other rod flew off. This was from the baited spot.

I quickly shipped the net together, put the mirror back in, carried it to the edge and lowered him into the water before hitting the other rod. The fish hugged the far margin 80 yards away but after 5 minutes I got it close and noticed a big common roll, possibly the fish I'd seen 2 nights earlier?

My legs went to jelly as I hoped it was my target fish. Luckily I had 2 nets set up as it sailed into the other one. I chuckled to myself as I looked down at 2 very big fish simultaneously sat alongside each other.



We weighed both fish, the mirror was 30-10, the Common was 39-11 and clicked away with the camera as the light began to fade. I was shocked by the last 2 night's events.

I reeled in at first light in a complete daze; the N-Gage XP had once again done the damage.

My week had been a complete disaster but had turned into a session that I could have only dreamed of!

Tight lines
Spencer Wright