

# Tackling The Match Lake part 1

By Stephen Newton

With the winter coming to an end and having not fished since October due to two new additions to the family I was eager to get looking for my second home for the coming season. After a couple of trips over the Kent boarder looking at lakes I was still none the wiser to which lake I would choose. Then one day CC Moore consultant Phil Buckley recommended the Yateley Match lake to me and told me a bit about the place, with that said I was on the phone the next morning setting up a walk around with the head bailiff which luckily for me was the weekend coming.

The time came and I pulled into the east car park with excitement anticipation and most of all nerves due to the reputation the Yately lakes had for being hard waters to fish the level of angler before me. I met the bailiff in the car park and chatted about the lake as we walked over the black steel bridge crossing the river below and onto the bank of what would become my new water. As soon as I saw the lake I knew it was the lake for me without taking another step, it was completely different to any lake I have ever fished before. The bailiff gave me the tour of the 15 acre lake and then left me to it I believe I stayed for about 4 hours walking around, climbing tree's trying to look for fish but as it was raining it was hard to see anything through the distorted gin clear water.

The 1<sup>st</sup> April seemed to take forever to come around but when it did I was on the M25 by 5am hoping to arrive for sunrise and to hopefully have the pick of the swims thinking it maybe busy but when I arrived shortly after 0545am only 3 cars greeted me. With this in mind I to my time walking the lake but was unable to see any fish activity so I decided to set up in a swim known as the Beach which is in the middle of the lake has good control of water an island to the left and with south westerly winds on the cards had the wind pushing into it.



I set up home for the next 24 hours and got the marker rod out, after 30 minutes or so I found the average depth was 6-7 ft and was a little choddy and weedy in places I then found a gully about 8 ft deep that felt a little cleaner so I decided to place 2 rods on this spot and 1 in the margin. I was armed with CC Moore's xxx boilies in 10's, 15's, 18's and barrels so to confuse the fish hoping to catch them off guard these were combined with sticks made up of crumbed xxx, active feast, crushed betaine pellets, GLM, Feedstim XP, Marine Amino Compound and a little Salmon oil.



With the traps set and about 20-30 baits around each rod I sat back and put the Coleman on and started to make the first of may tea's, half the day had passed without so much as a liner so I decided to reel in and to my surprise I had leaf debris on all hook points and thought to myself is this the sign of things to come as this was the first time I have fished a lake as mature as this which has been left alone to grow in it's natural state and to top it off gets very weedy in the summer although I thought it was weedy enough for my liking now.

I recast the rods and another 20-30 baits per rod and sat back knowing there was no more I could do as I felt the lead down so knew I was fishing, night came with no action but the lake seemed to come alive with fish crashing all over I thought to myself this was it. The guy in the next swim had his first Yateley carp at 10pm weighing in at 21lb so I helped with the photos and shared a celebratory can of cider. I got back into my bag thinking I am in with a chance but night turned to day without even a beep on the Delkim the morning passed and it was time to pack up, on the way back to the car park one of the bailiff stopped me to ask how I got on and I explained his top tip was CHODS get on them.

The following week came and the weather was getting hotter by the day and the forecast was more SW winds so with this in mind I rolled some fresh xxx cork ball pop ups and coated them in Feedstim Xp, Marine Amino, and Salmon oil to match the 2kilo's of xxx I had in mixed sizes which were also dusted in GLM powder for good measure.



I started my walk of the lake and stood in the first swim to the right of the black steel bridge called the jungle, as I stood there looking I saw a fish jump clean out of the water so I dropped the bucket I was carrying to save the swim and ran back to the car and packed the barrow. My rods were already set up with chod's to save time and I didn't bother with the marker rod this time as I felt this may spook the fish on the limited time I had and just cast all 3 rods out about 40 yards they all went down with a donk after the second cast and were spread out in what I would describe as a 10, 12 and 2 o clock positions I then started to place a 100 or so xxx bollies over the size of a tennis court.



Again nothing all day so I decided to put out about a kilo of xxx knowing that with the fairly high stock of carp 250 plus and its very big Cats 60lb plus so I am told I knew the bait would get eaten, night fell and the lake came to life again I sat up with a cuppa listening to the fish crashing over my baited spots and fell asleep at some point. I was woken by a one toner coming from my Delkim remote I jumped out of my bag and struck into what was to be my first Yateley Match Lake carp, I can remember thinking don't loose it just keep the pressure on and it will be ok. Ten or so minutes passed of a good fight and she was starting to tire I grabbed the net and guided her towards the spreader block. I took a minute to calm down and started the routine I had practiced before hand as I was to do my first self-take photo and to top it off it was 3am. I pulled the size 6 choddy hook from the centre bottom lip and weighed her at 24lb bang on took some photos and returned her home. I sat up drinking tea for the rest of the early morning until sunrise when I started to pack up just before leaving I baited the swim with the remainder of the xxx eager to get home and tell the wife and friends about my capture.



The next week could not come fast enough I planned to finish work at 4pm to beat the M25 traffic and hopefully set up in the same swim as I pulled into the car park and horror struck I thought I was not going to get a swim let alone the same as I had last week. I forgot it was a bank holiday weekend (the joys of working at the airport every day is the same including bank holidays) Anyway I chanced it and loaded the barrow without walking the lake and walked towards the jungle and I could not believe my eyes it was free. I set up and cast to the same spots feeling the leads down and this time it was on the first cast I then put out about 1 kilo of mixed xxx covered in the same liquid as the week before. Night came a lot sooner for me due to arriving later in the day so I started cook dinner and had my nightly cuppa tea before falling asleep on top on the bag due to the long day at work.

I was woken at 11pm by fish activity and this continued all night but did not even get so much as a liner, 4am came and I was up due to the bird life so I put the Coleman on and all of a sudden a 1 toner from the Delkim I struck into the middle rod and it immediately felt like a good carp. 30 seconds later and I knew it was not a carp but one of the may Catfish the lake has to offer it felt like a dead weight and I remember a local telling me if you ever hook one do not play it like a carp just get it in. With this in mind I got it in as fast as I could weighed it at 30lb cared for her as I do for all fish and returned it back to fight another day. Time came for me to leave and again a baited the swim with another kilo of xxx knowing the fish were on the bait now.

The following week came around pretty quickly due to a busy work schedule I arrived at the lake at 5pm as I left work early again but the jungle swim was taken so decide to fish the same area of water due to the amount of bait I had put in over the last 3 weeks. I chose a swim called the Reeds again the rods were all ready set up with xxx chods to save time I cast the rods out a couple of times each until I felt the lead hit the bottom and started to spread a kilo of coated xxx bollies over the size of 2 tennis courts.



I don't remember falling asleep but I was woken at 1am by fish crashing in front of me and this continued for a couple of hours until I was jumping out of my bag at 4am striking into a 1 toner from the middle rod. It felt a nice fish straight away and put up a good fight for 10 minutes. I soon had my 3<sup>rd</sup> fish in the net and was overjoyed as she went 26.10lb and a new PB mirror to boot. After doing the photos and returning her I sat up drinking tea until sunrise as I was unable to sleep thinking to myself one month, 4 visits and three fish to show not a bad way to start the season.



So for all those out there wanting to fish a lake such as Yateley don't be put off, fish to your strengths locate the fish get on 1 of the fantastic CC Moore boilies and keep it simple as it will all come together.

Until next time be lucky  
Stephen Newton