

How the BCAC was won

by Wayne Rees and Luke Church



After walking round Broadlands with an excited rush to find out where the bulk of the stock were, we found large numbers of fish in the motorway bay. We were sure there were many carp feeding by the large blows and crashing fish that were showing themselves. There was a BBQ to deal with at first with the fishery owner of Broadlands putting on a great social event for the final stage of the British Carp Angling Championships on the Thursday evening.

After this was the draw for the pegs on the Friday morning at 9am. After having two poor draws for the qualifying round and the semi final this really was a very tense moment. If the match was a watercraft draw then the motorway bay would have been our top swim, with peg numbers 9, 8 and 10 also being popular swim choices. Knowing that there were a lot of carp in front of us both, there was a lot of pressure on us not to mess up the opportunity that had been given to us. We decided to fish all four rods at close range at the start and not fish to the far margin straight away. This proved a sound choice as fish were caught at close range in the early stages before they were pushed out further during the event as the runs started to dry up at close range.

It was then decided to fish all four rods to the far margin, casting to the constantly showing fish. With so many shows and no takes within the first hour of putting rigs over to the far bank a walk was on the cards to check that the fish were not mid-water. With the blows and shows it was clear the fish were on the bottom, zig rigs were not the option but could have quite easily been in different conditions.

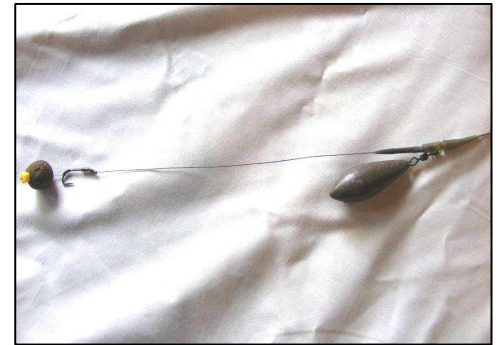
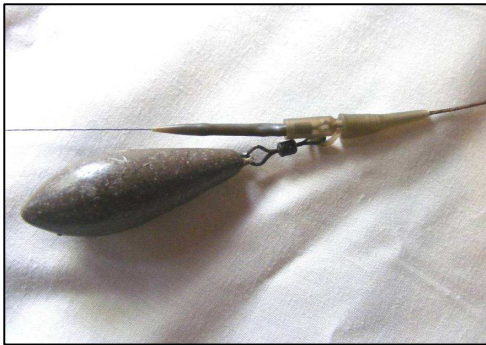
During the match we work constantly trying to get takes, however sometimes it is just best to sit tight and just wait for a take. No spod or marker floats were used during the whole of the match so commotion that could possibly deter the fish from feeding was kept to a minimum. Only a throwing stick was used to apply bait to the swim so as not to spook any carp out of the bay. Most of the runs came during the afternoon to early evening with the carp pushing out of the bay at night time; catching only 'localised' carp through to the morning period.

To reach the far margin chest waders were required to get the extra distance. A maximum of 3 metres of wading is permitted during the match so we both made sure to stay within this limit. Also, to get the extra distance to fish close to the far margin, flying back leads were removed in order to get the extra yards required. We both fished single hook baits to start with and applied the bait with care not to overdo the baiting. After each fish 20-30 baits were applied to keep the fish looking for the bait.



Rigs

The rigs were simple bottom bait rigs, with 6-7 inches of 15lbs ESP two tone, anti tangle sleeves, a lead clip system with a 3oz zip lead, size 8 armo point long shank hook, blow back silicone, and a simple sight stop applied to the boilie. All of this was pinned down with 3 ft of leadcore finished with a backlead.



Team Runner

We were lucky enough to have a team runner which made life a lot easier than the qualifier and the semi final. With food being prepared for us time was not wasted cooking or preparing food. With the runners allowed to touch 'dead' nets and rods this made things easier as it was possible to have a third rod set up and ready to go. This arrangement made the fishing efficient as there were always the full four rods in the water. Kevin Grout was our team runner, and being a competitor himself, knew how the event was run and really did prove himself extremely useful, and not just for his running capabilities.



Bait

The bait used was the new N-Gage XP from CC Moore with around 5kg being used throughout the match. The undoubted quality of this bait really helped with keeping the fish feeding throughout the event. We fed this on a little and often basis to keep fish searching out baits at regular intervals.

Leading the match from the off meant that we had it all to loose, we remained cool headed and calm throughout the match to remain focused. This really is important when fishing matches as the tension really does grow if you're in the shake up!