

A spring on Linch by Myles

Christchurch on the Linch hill complex was where I spent most of my time fishing during the early part of the spring. It seemed the ideal place to spend a bit time waiting for the big lake 'Stonacres' to wake up and for a few fish to start moving around and showing themselves!

My first session of the year on 'Christy' was in the last week in February, I had left it a bit later than planned but with such a harsh winter that seemed like the first chance to get down without the lakes being frozen over or a good chance of them freezing over. It's a long old way for me, just over a 280 mile round trip, a very long way to find that you can't even wet a line.



Even though I would check met check on a regular basis it always seemed that Oxford would have its very own climate and more times than not it would be totally wrong!

Anyway with a rise in the temperature and some big winds due I made my way to Oxford chancing it as I was more than gagging to get back out behind the rods with a chance of a cold water chunk. As I said, it was the last week in February and due to the weather and realistic chances of actually sticking a hook in a fish being very small, as expected the lake was quiet. I had taken one of my friends, 'Mr Jagger', with me as I had promised him I would take him up on guest session sometime over the winter and with opportunities running out as I wanted to be back on the big pond a few weeks later and with Joe's work commitments etc it seemed an ideal opportunity. Well, we weren't expecting much action so at least we could have a good social!



We stayed on for a four night session and during that time I managed a lovely low twenty common and Joe unfortunately managed to foul hook a stunning mirror that looked in the low thirties.

One of the few problems when fishing zigs is that there is a chance of foul hooking the odd one, especially in waters that host a large head of fish. The one I managed to catch was only the second fish of the year to be landed so, as you can imagine, I was more than happy with the result.



I had heard and been told by a few of the lads I had met during my time on the big lake during the previous autumn that the zigs were a real winner on 'Christy' during late winter and early spring and to date there has only been around two or three takes off the bottom- and we're at present almost in May! I did a total of ten nights over on 'Christy' before I got back to it over on the big lake around the last week in March. I had a total of three takes and three fish landed. All my fish fell for small bits of black foam around the size of a "tic tac" fished at depths between seven and twelve feet, in around fourteen to fifteen feet of water.

There really is a very large head of big carp in there, and with the three takes I managed I landed fish of just over twenty one pound, a real nice chestnut coloured mirror of thirty three and a half pounds and a long lean stunning common of thirty nine and a half pounds.

As you can imagine I was absolutely buzzing with that result and on my next session I was back on the big lake. It was the last week in March and there had only been one fish out since early November; a low thirty had been caught a range on a choddy the previous week.

It was a good sign that the lake and its inhabitants had started to move around and wake up a bit so I was more than happy to say goodbye to Christy until the winter!

I had set up on the back of a big southerly wind and had lashed all four rods out towards the second bar area scattering them between 140-160 yards. I fished two on choddys and two on seven foot zigs.





It was only a few hours later when one of the zig rods was away, and after a scary battle I landed my first 'stonys' carp of the year; a stunning linear of twenty five pounds ten ounces!

Zig-rig essentials!



Big 5oz leads are my choice when fishing zigs!



Rig bits!



Secure the lead clip with P.V.A. Lead ejection is imperative.

I have managed to so far catch four fish to date this season, all falling to the zigs, and all falling to small bits of black foam. Its madness how it works but it does. To be fair it took some getting used to just sitting behind the rods with not one offering of food, but one thing's for sure it's a cheap way of fishing.

Myles Gibson