

Stoneacres late March - early June 2010

It was around mid March when I got back to it on the big lake; I had spent what time I had fishing over on the smaller lakes on the complex, Christchurch and Willow, throughout the winter. It had all been good fun with some great socials and even a few stunning carp along the way. I had spent a lot of time whilst fishing on the other lakes walking the big lake's banks in the hope of seeing one of its residents give its whereabouts away, therefore giving me a starting point, but it had been to no avail, I didn't see any signs or anything to go on at all. I had been told it was a late starter by some of the other lads and they certainly weren't wrong!

It was the last week in March when I had my first take of the season. I had set up on the back of a strong southerly wind and cast two chods and two zigs out at range towards the end or the second bar area. Only a few hours later one of the rods fished on a zig gave a short flurry of bleeps as the bobbin dropped back a few inches. It took a second or two for me to realise what was going on as it



had been a case of rods out and climb in to the bag for some much needed kip. Half dead to the world I lifted into a solid resistance but was soon wide awake when the rod hooped over and the less than impressed fish started to peel line off the tight clutch. I must have hooked the fish at around 160 yards and it was now another twenty or so yards out in the lake in its bid for freedom. Luckily all went my way and after a scary battle I landed my first Stoneacres carp of 2010, a lovely scaly fish of 25lb 10oz.

It was a week or so later that the fish started to show and show they did, but getting a bite off them proved a different story. There was the odd fish getting caught with the bigun making his mistake in early April at a weight of 51lb 8oz. It was the first week in May when I got my second chance; it was blowing a big northerly and after seeing a good show on the morning, I arrived in a swim known as 'The Bins'. I knew the swim pretty well as I had fished it a bit the previous autumn. The fish were showing out at range around the second bar area and just my side of it. I knew there was no chance of reaching where they were so I decided to fish an area I knew at around 150 yards. The wind was a good old cross wind and the day could only be described as a nightmare. In the end I clipped my marker rod up at 155 yards and whacked it towards the sky line marks I had used in the past.



I just about felt the lead touch down due to the bow in the braid, popped the marker up then rowed out and scattered a good 2kg of mixed sizes N-Gage XP around the area.

I walked three rods out and put the pole elastic markers on each at around 145 yard so when they were cast towards the spot when I heard the markers come through the eyes it was time to slow the lead. I didn't want to fish them to a solid clip as I was using choddys and did want to risk the rig been forced near the lead end as the lead would spring back from the force of it hitting the clip. Anyway, Tench on all three rods was what I received for my efforts- not impressed at all! I topped the area up with another two kg the following evening and around midday I landed my second fish; my first common out of the lake at 25lb 10oz, I was buzzin!

The following week I saw a few shows first light in the same area so decided to drop back into the same swim. The weather was completely different this week with bright warm sunny days and not much wind; perfect for doing the spots properly!

I fished two rods in the area where I had caught from the previous week. Out in the boat I found the area but one side of the area was a lot cleaner with bits of polished gravel clearly visible. I managed to get two rigs bang on the money so another 2kg+ of bait and a handful of tigers were scattered around the area. The other rods were fished on a small silty area surrounded by low lying onion weed at around 120 yards. It looked a lovely area so I put one on the silt and fished a choddy just into the low lying weed. It was rods out for midday and the kettle on. The sun was just fading away behind the trees when one of the rods fished on the range spots tore off. The fish soon weeded itself, so I jumped in the boat and cranked myself out towards where the fish had found sanctuary. Once out of the weed the powerful fish decided to take me for a tour of the lake towing me all over the place. Finally I lifted the net around a long lean mirror and made my way back the bank.



On the scales she went 28lb 4oz. After a few shots she was slipped back so I was left to get the rod back out and reflect on the evenings events with a couple of cans of Stella and a grin like a Cheshire cat.

There were no more carp for me that session, just plenty of Tench whilst the small silty area produced two very large bream. (17lb+ and 19lb 8oz respectively)

My next session down was for a five nighter and was a week of Tench. I just couldn't get away from the bloody things. I did manage to hook a Carp on the last morning of the session; it was from a large clear area where I had caught nine Tench throughout the two days I had fished it. The take was on a bright bait fished in the weed at the side of the spot on a choddy. The fish was only on for a few seconds before the hook slipped and all fell slack.

The following week I arrived to find a lot of thrashing around as they had started to spawn, so I left them to it. It's a good job that they had already got it over and done with over on the other lakes or it would have been a long old drive for nothing!



I spent three days and two nights flitting between the two other lakes floater fishing and stalking, I managed an 18lb common from Willow on a floater and managed to lose what looked like a 30lb+ common at the net whilst over on Christchurch I managed a 29.8lb common and two stunning little mirrors- both of 18lb. All the fish were caught on little stiff link pop ups fished over a hand full of whole and chopped N-Gage XP no more than a rod length from the bank.

The following week it was back to it on 'Stoneys' as they had got the spawning over and done with during the recent warm weather. Again I arrived at first light and found a few fish showing in the central area of the lake. Swim choice was made easy due to them giving themselves away. By midday I had three rods all fishing to an area at around 110 yards. It was a gravel area but still had bits of weed breaking the area up, so I decided to give them a bit of bait as I thought they would be up for some snappin after they had spawned. I introduced 4kg of mixed sized N-Gage over all three rods. Over the next four nights I managed a few tench and two stunning mirrors; one of 23lb and the other a 28lb 12oz!



I was really happy with the result and can't wait to get back down to try my luck at a few more of those stunning oxford carp!!!!

Myles Gibson.