

After taking a break!

At the beginning of this year, I thought with me being 22 it's about time I moved out of my mam's house so in May I got my own place which needed quite a lot of work done to it. This literally put a cap on my fishing days right up until November when I found the time to get myself down to Oxford for a four nighter; I was buzzing!

So after taking a break I was Oxford bound at last, arriving down at Christchurch at around 10pm in the pitch black. I found the fish were 'boshing' on the back of a 3week old south-easterly wind so set up camp in the swim to the left of where I'd heard the majority of the fish. I did this in the hope the fish would move onto me rather than me move onto them.



These cute and riggy Christchurch Carp predictably don't take kindly to having 4.5oz leads chucked at them. Also I decided to only fish two rods for the night knowing that they don't like too much disturbance or lines in the swim either.

By 11:30pm I had two rods baited with trimmed down Northern Special Pop Ups tipped with half an artificial maggot. These were fished on 3 inch braided hooklinks with 4.5oz drop off inline leads. They were presented with a solid bag of maggot and finely ground Odyssey xxx boilies on each rod.

At around 2:30am I was receiving plenty of liners as well as hearing some good fish crash on the baited spot. The plan was coming together nicely and the fish seemed to be loving the bait. Around an hour passed and the liners became more frequent. I started to contemplate whether the rigs were actually fishing rather than tangled because I'd not had a bite, but eventually my left hand rod tightened up and I was connected to what felt like a decent fish just plodding around in the margins trying to get tucked behind the weed.

A good 10 minutes later I slid the net under an exhausted, deep bodied common and slipped her into the retainer safely before calling for Kev "the goat" who was fishing a couple of swims down to come and help with the weighing.

We got her on the bank and Kev confirmed it to be "Baby Perch" at 38lb 10oz, a new p.b. common for me!

I got some mint pictures from Gyles, Kev and Dan at first light and slipped her back unharmed- I was buzzing.





Throughout the session conditions seemed good for another lump, but it wasn't to be. I did land two low 20's which were very much appreciated and kept me occupied through the long nights. Both of these 20s managed to take out my other lines which was a pain, but what can you do ay? I went home a happy man with a new p.b. common and had also christened my new Daiwa Infinitys!

We have still probably got a couple of weeks of mild weather left, so get fishing and nail yourself a lump before it all shuts down again for the winter!!!!

Good luck!
Scott Lloyd

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