

# First Time Success

By Stephen Newton

Back in a very cold October I was eagerly awaiting the arrival of my freshly rolled bait to arrive from the CCMoore bait shed it was the legendary XXX in an assortment of sizes 10's, 15's, 18's and barrels as to keep the fish guessing which size had the hook on the end a deadly tactic.

I also ordered some Northern Specials for the first time in white 12mm's to accompany the XXX in a manner of different rigs when the parcel arrived I was like a child at Christmas I just ripped it open rather than take my time and cut the logo tape off. I was greeted with 25kg of xxx which when opened filled the room with this very fishy, yeasty smell with a hint of black pepper as I had this added to the mix. Next it was time to have a smell of the NS, I had heard so much about these and all I can say is they are the nicest smelling pop ups I have ever smelt they remind me of when I was a kid and went on the Bubble Works at Chessington World of Adventures and possibly a bubble gum? They have a very strong citrus smell and are supplied with a sachet of what we know call NS booster liquid which is meant to be drizzled over them until they have soaked it all up making them even more potent.

With my new bait in hand I arranged a 24 hour trip with a friend of mine to a local day ticket water that in its own right is a tuff one due to the amount of anglers and bait



it sees. Never the less I was keen to go as this was to be my last outing of the year and I wanted to test my new bait. With the car packed we headed off and arrived to a fairly bust complex considering the weather which I believe was -1, we chose one of the lakes that the complex has to offer called the Specimen Lake. This was due to not having as many anglers on it at the time, it is a little 3 acre lake with around 70 fish weighing up to 46lb we quickly walked the lake but saw no activity so I

decided on peg 4 as this is a lucky number for me.

The bivvies were set up first and the Coleman on as it was freezing I tied up 3 rigs in the comfort of my warm bivvy 2 had 15mm xxx bottom baits and the other a snowman set up consisting of a 15mm xxx and a 12mm white NS, each had little sticks so the hook point would not get masked they were made of crumbed xxx bollicie, active feast, GLM, Feedstim XP and Marine Amino Compound I thought to myself what fish could resist this.

Before casting out I had a quick mark around as the owner had told me that this



peg was pretty flat with a depth of around 5-6 feet but there was a hole about 8-9 feet deep to the right which I found in no time. With my marker out I cast just to the right of it and felt the lead down and then proceeded to set the other two traps.

Night time came with no signs of fish activity so my friend and I hit the bags early as it was now well below zero and frost was forming on the bivvies and unhooking mat.



I was woken up by a screaming Delkim so jumped/fell out of my bag fumbled around with the zip on my bivvy door and ran to the right hand rod which was in melt down. I struck into the rod and it immediately felt a nice size fish that seemed to give up its fight within minutes but as soon as it saw the net it went again so giving it a little line it went to fight on for another 5 minutes or so.

She was soon in my net with me jumping up and down thinking what a result a carp on my first outing with the xxx, what I forgot and only noticed when I pulled the hook out, it was the snowman set up I just could not believe it two new baits did the business.



It was that cold that I had to break the ice off the top of my water bucket so I could wet the mat and sling, when we weighed her she went 26.08lb of lovely Autumn/Winter carp my friend helped with the photos as quickly as possible as my hands were freezing lifting this wet carp up and we returned her to the place she came from. The next words out of

my mate's mouth were I want some of that bait and he has also never looked back.

It just goes to show how good the bait that CCMoore supplies really is, my advice is get on one of the bollies and other products they have to offer and improve your catch rate.



I was also the only angler to catch that week and if that's not confidence for you I really do not know what is.

*Until next time, be lucky  
Stephen Newton*