

The Dale Common - 40lb 5oz

By Adam Stonier

I started back fishing what is locally known as 'The Dale' around the middle of February. I had spent the previous year fishing the small tricky pit catching most of the others that inhabit within its depths. The lake is only around two acres in size homing around 15 carp including the big-un. To say the water was a head banger would be an understatement, there was never a quiet moment on the place with the local kids constantly making their presence known. Snapping trees all around the lake to build their fires, throwing stones all over you swim, with consistent screaming and shouting not to mention the cast happy noddys.

From the off I started applying the N-Gage XP along with one of my good friends Andy Freeman, I was very confident in the bait as I had some good results on Cheshire's Redesmere catching some good fish with the best being one of the A-Team a real old character fish, known as The Pretty one at a good weight of 35.6 at the time a new personal best.

It was nice to see the common excreting the bait all over Andy's mat when he went onto catch it a few months into our campaign; this was obviously a confidence booster and a clear sign they were loving the bait. The small pond had seen a fair bit of the bait and although the common had already fallen to it, I carried on applying it regardless. The start of this year was pretty much the same as the season before catching fish from the off. The common ended up becoming my 17th fish landed from the place that I caught after a 17th month long haul. The common fell for a N-Gage Air ball pop up presented on a stiff/ supple combi link fished tight to a large weed bed that I had been trickling bait in since the start. It was an area the fish were spending a lot of their time and also an area Andy caught the big-un the previous spring. It was the 1st of May when I finally slipped the net under my target, words just can't describe the feeling when it slid over the net, all that hard work and effort had finally paid off. After I arranged for a few good mates to come down to do the weighing etc. We settled on a weight of 40.5. A new personal best; what a buzz!

