

Sam's mega Roach result

Over the past few weeks we have seen a string of results reported by Sam Bascombe fishing Cemex Angling's pressured Roach Pit venue at Ringwood in Hampshire. Sam started to use our bait in the last few months and quickly started to get amongst the fish of what is undoubtedly one of the most high quality stocks of fish in the country at present.

Sam accounted for several good fish in the early weeks of the season when action was slow and the pit was being typically 'swimmy' before really making his mark on the 2011-12 campaign on the 20+ acre gravel pit.

Sam takes up the story so far.....

After recently joining the CC Moore field test team this season I had the very tricky decision of choosing one of the great baits they produce for my campaign on Cemex's Roach Pit syndicate this year. However, knowing that Odyssey XXX had a great record on the syndicate over the last 5-8 years with all the target fish being caught on it on several occasions by different anglers, I decided to use XXX in conjunction with, in my opinion, the best pellets ever put together - Betaine Ultramix .

The Roach Pit season started as always on June 16th and the swim draw was a few days before on the 12th.

Unfortunately for me I came out of the draw almost last and spent the first five days of the season nowhere near the fish and unsurprisingly blanked however things started to happen for me the following week when I managed to find a lot of fish down the shallows and managed to get on them. Within two nights I had three takes producing a 33lb mirror and a low twenty whilst somehow managing to lose the third culprit.

The lake then shut for a few days as the fish started to spawn, so I made my way to a local club lake on the Sunday just to wet a line and hopefully keep up my confidence. Happily on Monday morning I had a call to say the Roach Pit had reopened so I was packed up and back at the pit within an hour and managed to find a few fish to cast to. I had found a nice deep silt spot amongst thick weed at 50 yds range and quickly put 6 kilos of Odyssey XXX boilies and Betaine Ultramix pellets on the spot followed by my hinged stiff link rigs loaded with 18mm xxx cork ball pop ups.

The plan quickly paid off and I had a lovely 24lb mirror that night at 11.45 and repeated this the next evening with the same result- a cracking fish known as Baby Snub at 27lb 4oz. I was really happy with my two nights on the spot and before I left on the Tuesday I put the rest of my xxx out (around 2 kilos) for when I returned the following Sunday. This is always something you read about and often wonder if it is beneficial or counter-productive but there is no doubt that if you have a bait the fish want then you will be doing yourself a massive favour.



Before I knew it I was back at the pit. Arriving on the Sunday at 5 am I was lucky enough to drop back into the swim I had baited the week before and decided to spod a mix of bait out again, this time consisting of Odyssey XXX and Betaine Ultramix. I planned to leave the swim for the day; a tactic I use a lot with great success and had the rods sorted and clipped up with fresh pop ups tied on by 5pm. I then decided to wait for the wind to die off before casting out and it was actually about 6.30pm when I got the first rod out, Unbelievably I was just 'foaming up' the second rig when the rod I'd just cast out was away literally 5 minutes after being cast into the water.

After an epic battle I landed the stunning 'Grey One' at 35lb 10oz..... it looked incredible.

I finally got both rods on the spot by around 8 pm and spodded another 6 spods of bait over the spot. To my delight I was awoken at around 5.30 am to a slow take and instantly knew which fish I had hooked; it was the mutant, a fish that I catch every year and was as before proved to be a low 20lb fish.

I recast the rod again but by 11 o'clock the fish seemed to move further up the lake so I wound in, spodded another 6 kilos of Odyssey XXX boilies and Betaine Ultramix on the spot and went for a walk around some of the other pits in the area.

I returned to my swim later in the afternoon and decided to put two rods on the spot for my last night; again the rigs were cast out at around 7pm that evening and it looked fairly quiet. I didn't hold out much hope for my last night and as expected it was a quiet night but at around 6.30am I had a savage liner and just 20 minutes later I was doing battle with a very angry, powerful fish.



Before long my friend Shane entered the swim and grabbed the net to give me a hand.

A few minutes later we lifted the net around a real gem..... I had caught the highly sought after 'Big Lin' at 42lb 8oz and was now the most recent captor of one of the best looking fish in the country..... and usually a rare visitor to the bank.

After the 'Big Lin' was returned I stuck the kettle on for the lads that had helped out with the shots, but the kettle didn't even have time to boil as the other which was rod still on the spot was away too.

This fish dumped me in the weed bed straight away although I pumped away and soon had it moving towards me, fish weed and all. When I finally got it in the net my mate started tearing away the weed and just looked at me and jokingly said "you're my hero, you've got 'Barbs'!"



I couldn't believe it, two of my target fish in an hour and this time she went 39lb 12oz on the scales. Spawned out, she looked gorgeous and with her safely returned my mate said "stuff the tea we're going down the shop for some beers" so he left me to sort my gear out!

I soon had a rod back on the spot and as I was setting the bobbin the rod whipped round and unbelievably I was in again!!!

This time it was a cracking 28lb 4oz mirror which was perfectly celebrated with a beer with the lads before I shot off home.

I simply couldn't believe what had happened.....what an incredible session, the XXX really was doing the damage.



Sunday soon came round again and I was back in the memorable swim primed and ready for it all to kick off again- and incredibly whilst there were still not that many fish being caught by all the other anglers on the venue I managed another phenomenal Roach Pit fish in the shape of the Baby Fully of 29lb 2oz.

As you can imagine, I'm so looking forward to the rest of the season and with the 'Horse', 'Mug' and 'Seans' fish left on my list I hope to be doing battle with one of them by the end of the season.



Take my advice, get on the Odyssey XXX and Betaine Ultramix to gain a real edge over others on your water..... You'll be glad did!!

Sam Bascombe

Well done Sam, that really is a sensational set of results on a very tough water which sees relentless pressure from some of the best anglers in the country. We're glad you chose Odyssey XXX and have seen at first hand just how good that bait really is.