THE ONLY WEEKLY MAGAZINE FOR COARSE AND SEA ANGLERS

Angler's Mail

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FREE METHOD FEEDER

CARRYALLS ON TEST

Why sneer at foreign carp?

Danny Fairbrass defends whackers from abroad

WHERE TO FISH THIS WEEKEND

STORM IN A POLE CUP!

Action Replay reveals a top tactic

Colin Davidson's

Carp world

Our resident whacker catcher's weekly round-up

Old Bury beginnings

Chris Maltby sharing his 30 years carp know how with Pro Fish customers

THERE can be no better welcome to carping than personal tuition. Add a prolific venue for the day, a prebaited swim, constant guidance from experienced carpers and recruitment to the sport becomes a certainty.

Guildford, Surrey-based Gardner Tackle offer all this and more at their Pro Fish courses at Old Bury Hill near Dorking. But I predict plenty of tackle manufacturers will soon be following their lead, to actively encourage more bums on bedchairs.

Private tuition with big name anglers grows in popularity each year - showing the confusion that still reigns amongst novices. Curved bits of tubing, hooks with names you can't pronounce and rigs that take an age to understand let alone tie are the culprits.

And as with every sport, the skill that takes seconds to be shown could escape your grasp for years. So it's top marks to Gardner for offering a good grounding to anyone who is keen to learn.

The proof of the pudding! Carol Blades with the biggest carp of the day, at 17 lb 10 oz.

'As a manufacturer we always deal with retailers not the public, this helps bridge the gap,' explained Chris Maltby of Gardner. 'It helps you realise who the typical carp anglers are, and they're the only people who give true feedback. You also learn how much you take for granted and meet people who love to go fishing before carp fishing spoils them.'

Chris, a carper of 30 years standing, mucks in and is responsible for

THIS WEEK'S WHACKERS

Mail **centre forward Thomas Petch, has finally managed to end a nine year quest for a 20-pounder at Godalming's Broadwater in Surrey. Petch, 25, from Wimbledon, South West London bagged this 22 lb 1 oz common on double Richworth tutti-frutti on a size 6 Talon Tip to 10 lb nylon and 1 oz running lead, getting the take before he could put the rod in the rests. A truly marvellous accomplishment.**

This is the first fish Gary Hughes has banked from a tricky 60 acre Berkshire pit this season but at 46 lb it was worth waiting for. Home made fishmeal boilies flavoured with big kipper lived up to their name, after the 29-year-old courier from Hayes, Middlesex fed 40 freebies and a kilo of Richworth groundbait to a plateau at 80 yards. He struck with a popped-up bait on a size 6 Fox Series Three to 15 lb Silkworm for his only take of a weekend trip. A merit contender.

An overnight session at a Surrey pit brought five fish for Nigel Watts, including four commons and this leather at 39 lb 10 oz. Craftsman Nigel from Chertsey in the same county cast 20 yards to four feet of water, feeding 20 Carp Company Icelandic Red baits around his size 6 hook on 30 lb Spiderwire hook length to 10 lb GR60 main line. 'I had a couple of bleeps and then a slow take at 4am resulting in a very powerful fight,' said Nigel. 'I was over the moon when I slipped it into the net.'

mainline masterclass

Your carp queries answered every week by one of this top bait firm's expert testers

Q. When I roll my boilies they end up egg shaped and don't catapult out very well. What is going wrong?

Phil Knell says: 'If you're using a rolling table like most people it could be that the mix is too wet, and after they've been rolled the baits tend to flatten before boiling. Make the paste stiffer, if it's harder to roll smear the rolling table with a tiny drop of peanut or olive oil to help. The paste sausages could also be too big for the rolling table. If you're using a bait gun the nozzle could be too wide. Lay the sausages long ways down the channels of the rolling table first. They should be visibly very slightly smaller in diameter. If rolling by hand you need a firmer paste still because the pressure from your hands is inconsistent. If you still can't get them round, try one of the bait rolling services, they offer round baits without the hassle!'

No profit plundering

THE most refreshing part of the Pro Fish scheme is that neither David deVere, owner of Old Bury Hill nor Gardner are making money.

'There's definitely no financial gain,' Chris Maltby stressed. 'It's £21.95 per person all inclusive which is a giveaway when you consider that we prebait the swims with top quality Carp Company boilies and particles, provide complete tackle, cover the cost of the £9 day ticket and teach people. All people have to do is bring themselves.

'David barely covers his cost because he's losing the custom of six roped off pegs,' he concluded.

Boilies are normally banned on Old Bury Hill through the warmer months, but not for customers on the Pro Fish course, leaving the best chance possible of takes from carp averaging upper doubles.

The top class helpers have included big Ron Buss, Ian Russell and Bob Newman. When I attended, three helpers had accounted for six English 40s between them!

the tuition himself.

'It's a cliche, but putting something back is a key part. I'm sick of seeing anaemic looking kids who stay in their rooms pushing computer keys. If we don't make an effort there will be no need for teenagers to have eyes in future because they never go outside or get any fresh air,' he laughed.

So far the courses have attracted mothers with sons, fathers with daughters, pensioners and disabled.

So what do the customers think? 'I enjoyed it very much,' said Carol Blades from Guildford, Surrey. 'I go with my husband Peter but I usually float fish so I thought it was a good opportunity to give carping a go.

'I found the course very practical and informative, there was far more to it that I realised. It was very down to earth and relaxed when I was expecting something serious and formal,' continued Carol who scored the best fish of the day, a 17 lb 10 oz leather.

'I was frightened of losing it, but it was very exciting and I'll be getting a lot more involved in carp fishing. I'd recommend it to anyone, it was a great experience,' concluded Carol.

It's the biggest competition for big carp catchers everywhere. And it's only in *Angler's Mail*.

Want to be a winner?

GOOD quality prints or transparencies are the way to win big money rod and reel combinations in the £30,000 Daiwa Carp Masters. You catch the fish and we'll do the rest to try and make you a winner.

Every single month, all through the year, we're giving away three of Daiwa's best selling carp rod and reel combinations - prizes you may normally only be able to drool over in the company's excellent catalogue.

And because we award prizes in three different categories - the heaviest fish each month, the best story or most deserved capture and the best picture - they are prizes absolutely everyone can aspire to.

The top prize every month is a pair of 12 ft, 2.75 lb test curve Infinity X rods - accepted as THE classic modern day carp rods, twinned with big spool Emblem Z 5500T Twistbuster reels (top). They're the ultimate big fish and demanding venue combination.

Tackle shops can hardly keep up with demand for state-of-the-art Infinity rods but we've got a pair to give away every month in a package worth almost £1,000.

Second place scoops a pair of the Dictator Z 2.5 lb test, 12-footers and Emblem S 5500T Twistbusters worth a weighty £570 (middle) and third a pair of Powermesh 12 ft ,2 lb models with Emblem Bite 'n Run 4550 reels totalling £380 (bottom).

Don't forget, just winning a nomination for a Daiwa Masters monthly award leaves you quids in with a bulk spool of Daiwa Sensor main line in 12 or 15 lb breaking strain.

Daiwa
CARP MASTERS

Stoke-on-Trent AS venue Capesthorne Hall near Macclesfield, Cheshire suffered the sad loss of its biggest mirror Moby this season, but there are still some cracking carp like this 30 lb 8 oz mirror displayed by Ray Bundock. Fishing from the house bank Ray, 35, from Stockport, Cheshire used a Mainline Activ-8 boilie on a size 6 hook to 10 lb line. A well composed picture wins an appearance nomination and a bulk spool of Sensor line.

Lee Brown had the company of this lovely 31 lb mirror in the All Alone swim at Oxfordshire's day ticket Orchid Lake after feeding hemp pellets, partiblend, and Mainline Activ-8 boilies around his hook bait cast near snags.
Norwich, Norfolk lad Lee used a Drennan Continental Boilie hook to a Hutchinson Edge braided hook length behind a 2 oz lead.

He might be 47 but Southend-on-Sea old stager Derek Ritchie can still move swims faster than the young bucks on Darenth's Big Lake in Kent. A speedy change gave Brentwood Angling consultant Del two takes, the first a three-pounder and the next this 36 lb leather. He sticked out 2.5 kilos of Mainline's new Perfect 10 boilies and cast 90 yards with a size 6 Iseama hook to 16 inches of Korda's new IQ Fluorocarbon hook length behind a 3.5 oz lead, striking a drop back then a steady take at 4.40am.