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ADVANCED CARP FISHING

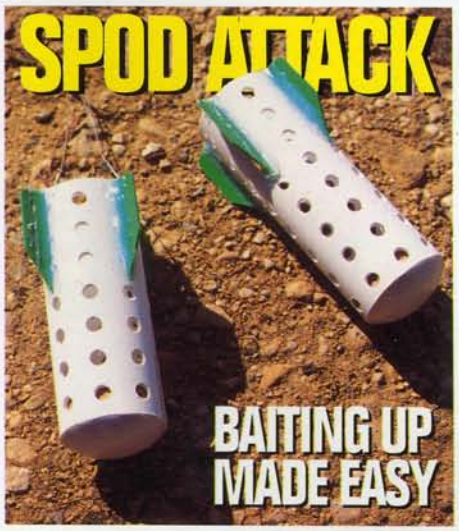
ISSN 1360-3086

WINTER WINNERS

Don't be put off by the weather - read how the stars cope with the cold

GET HOOKED

Which patterns are best for YOUR style of fishing?



SPOD ATTACK

BAITING UP MADE EASY

COMPETITION

WIN! £500 WORTH OF TOP ASHIMA GOODIES

THE REMEDY

FIND OUT WHAT GOES INTO A NEW BOILIE

Boilies, Silt And, Of Course, Carp

When you're the product manager for a company like Gardner Tackle there's a fair chance you will know a thing or two about carp fishing, so when Chris Maltby volunteered to do a feature for us on fishing in silt we jumped at the chance. Here's how he got on...

Chris shows off a typical Bury Hill common

Old Bury Hill is one of the prettiest venues in the south of England, not to mention one of the most prolific. The stocking level is just incredible. How does 450 doubles, 50 twenties and two thirties in 12 acres sound to you?

The day ticket fishery is a mature lake, roughly triangular in shape and surrounded by colourful irises and lilies. You'll find each swim is fully decked and extremely comfortable.

There is a protected nature area at one end that is very snaggy. At around four feet deep it is fondly known as 'the jungle' but you can fish quite close to it by hiring a punt.

The only swim offering any kind of bank access to the jungle is peg one at the end of the front bank. Here you'll find a silty channel from the main island to the front of the boathouse around 40 yards out. It varies a little in depth but mostly averages nine feet. It is a natural larder and a noted holding spot.

It was the obvious swim choice for my session, giving me the option of fishing into the silty channel or fishing at longer range towards the far margin, which forms the entrance to the jungle.

SILT SELECTION

To fish successfully in silt you first have to understand that there are many different kinds of the stuff. Carp will quite happily stick their heads right into some kinds yet totally avoid others. If you find silt that looks oily and smells rancid, give it a wide berth. Cast a bait out for a while and then reel in and use your nose as the acid test.

Try watching the water for signs of bubbling. The areas where you see the most activity are likely to be the siltiest. If carp are rolling or jumping, watch and see if they dive down, sending up large patches of bubbles. If so, these are likely to be good areas to concentrate on.

Chris prepares for a long chuck to the far margin entrance to 'the jungle'

MY BAITS FOR SILT

I'm a big fan of the ever-reliable Carp Company Icelandic Red base mix with Caviar and Cranberry EPAs, Aminol and Pukka Salmon Oil added for good measure.

These are the ingredients for the silt sessions

They refuse to use any preservatives in their range and stick purely to natural human grade consumption ingredients.

I began using the stuff to gain product knowledge when we took on distribution but I was unprepared for the fantastic results my friends and I experienced on a variety of different waters.

Here's the exact recipe I have my baits made to:-

- 16oz Icelandic Red
- 6 Eggs
- 20 ml Aminol
- 5 grams Amino Betaine
- 2ml Cranberry EPA
- 2ml Caviar EPA
- 15ml Pukka Salmon Oil

Work commitments mean I rarely get time to roll my own baits and with no readymades to fall back on I put my trust in the ever reliable Ian 'Chemo' Russell at Heathrow Bait Services (0956 847706). With just 36 hours notice he was still able to deliver umpteen kilos of perfectly rolled 16mm and 18mm bottom baits and a pukka bag of pop-ups that looked and smelt almost too horny to fish with. I guess he must be a wizard with the Gardner Rollaball Baitmaster!

BAIT APPLICATION

By using a hired punt I was able to bait up easily and accurately, a decided advantage when baiting heavily. In addition to boilies I also used the ever faithful Gardner trout pellets.

I introduced around five kilos of bait to each spot, spreading this quite liberally around the marker floats positioned in the middle of the silty channel. This may sound heavy to many readers but I wanted the fish to come in over the bait at night and still be there feeding when I arrived at dawn.

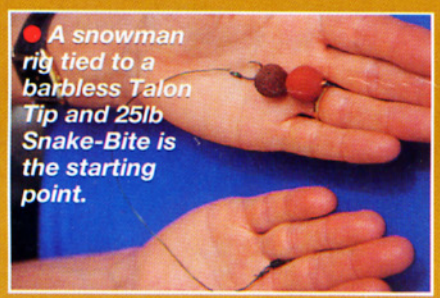
RIGS FOR SILT FISHING

Fishing in silt is always a risky game and plenty of people will think twice about it but on many occasions it's simply unavoidable.

Personally I prefer to lay my entire hook link on the top layer of silt so that any carp intending to feed has to get past my baited hook to do so. With luck it will feed on what I have introduced before sticking its head into the silt.

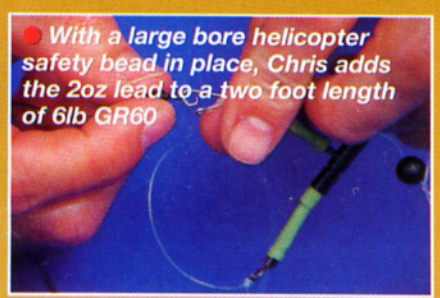
Carp will quite happily stick their heads right into some kinds of silt yet totally avoid others.

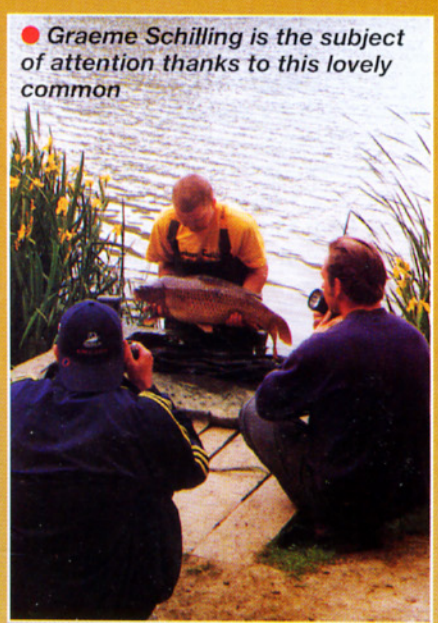
CHRIS' HELICOPTER SILT RIG

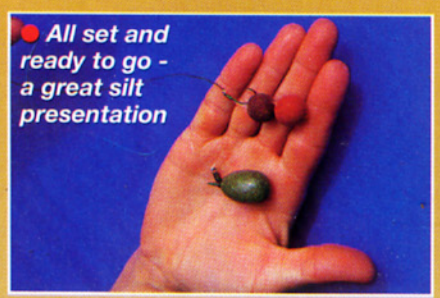

A snowman rig tied to a barbless Talon Tip and 25lb Snake-Bite is the starting point.

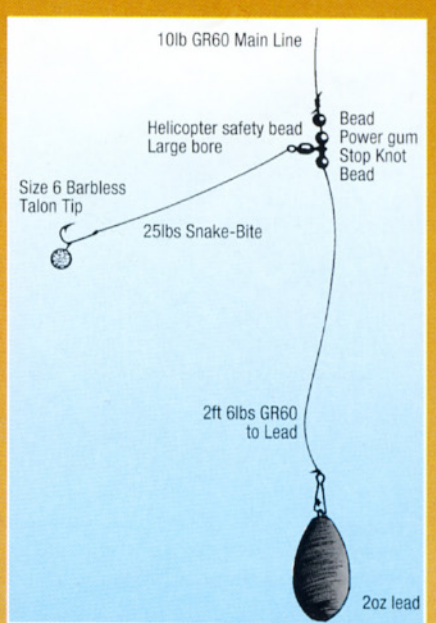
This little lot will form the basis of the Gardner boys' attack

Stringers can be useful, although Chris prefers PVA bags


With a large bore helicopter safety bead in place, Chris adds the 2oz lead to a two foot length of 6lb GR60


Graeme Schilling is the subject of attention thanks to this lovely common


All set and ready to go - a great silt presentation



Boilies, Silt And, Of Course, Carp

Continued

BAGGING THE RIG

● Grab a PVA bag- Chris uses his own firm's fishnet tubes

● Fill the bag or tube with your chosen bait, in this case The Carp Company's boilies

● Hook the baits to the outside of the bag to stop them flying around during casting

● Once they're bagged up, take aim and fire!

The rig is a variation of one shown to me by Tim Hodges several years ago, using one of our large bore helicopter safety rigs with the bomb fished on a two foot tail. It casts beautifully, never tangles and is the most efficient hooked fish to takes registered set-up I have ever used. I put this down to two factors. Firstly it is always in view and secondly it has the perfect amount of play in it for the carp to straighten up and hook itself. The lead is always in direct line with the rod tip and well behind the rig which is fished bow string tight.

Fishing in silt is always a risky game but on many occasions it's simply unavoidable.

I'm a fan of snowman presentations for silt fishing though I'll often experiment with single pop-ups on the second rod.

When casting to deep silt I usually put my hook bait in a PVA bag or tube.

As the lead falls through the water and sinks into the silt, the bag falls gently on top of it. As the bag melts it leaves a small pile of bait on top of the silt with my hook bait right in the middle of it.

Now, it can also be argued that fishing shorter links directly into the silt could work too and a Gardner colleague of mine called Graeme Schilling offered to try this approach out. He was confident the fish would get their heads down and root the bait out, whether it was exposed or not, and the results spoke for themselves with several fish hooked squarely in the top lip.

FISHING AT OLD BURY HILL

You can find Old Bury Hill just off the A25 Dorking to Guildford road, less than one mile from Dorking town centre. The entrance is clearly signposted on the right when travelling from the town. There are also frequent train services to the railway station which is a short bus or taxi ride from the fishery.

A standard adult day ticket costs £9 for one rod or £5 for juniors and senior citizens from Monday to Saturday. A second rod will incur a further £4 charge.

The newly built boathouse has toilets, a tackle shop and a cafe offering hot and cold food.

There is a two rod limit and no night fishing is allowed. Boilies are banned between April and September but for more details ring the head bailiff on 01306 883621.

THE SILT SESSION

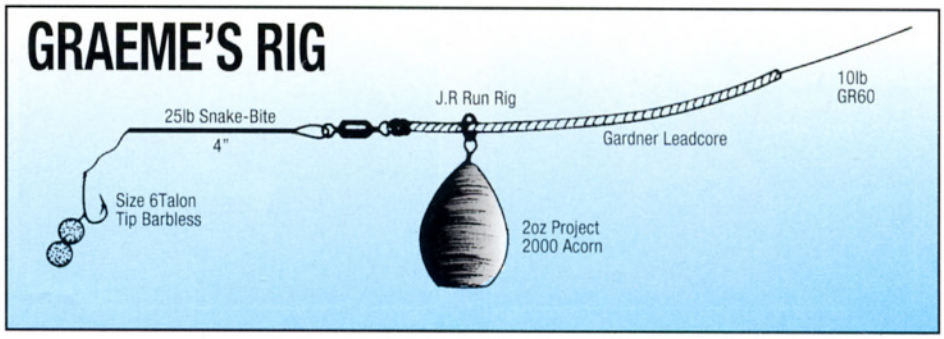
Before I outline the session to you I'd just like to mention my pod set-up. I often like to have the facility to move quickly and easily and this is why I used our own Black Shadow Tru-Lok pod and bars. Quite simply this arrangement can be assembled and broken down in seconds with everything remaining aligned. It's also lightweight and there are no locking rings to come loose or get lost while moving.

Anyway, it didn't take long after introducing the bait for fish to show. Judging by the amount of bubbling out there I wasn't going to have to wait long. Soon I began to receive small lifts on the bobbins, followed by drop backs. At first I thought that they might be very finicky takes, but after watching the line tighten and slacken several times I came to the conclusion that they were in fact line bites. Either way it was good news.

After only 45 minutes I had a proper take on the left hand rod, only to have the line fall slack the instant I bent into it. On checking the end of the line I could see that it had been cut very cleanly indeed. I was puzzled by this until the exact same thing happened to the guy in the next swim. He suggested that it was due to pike feeding on small fish around the baited area and biting through the line. He'd had it happen before when the

● Carp company flavours and additives - spot on

GRAEME'S RIG



pike were feeding well and it was likely that there were quite a lot of fish in the swim.

Thirty minutes later I was still running over the pike incident in my mind when the same rod was away to a real flyer. Picking up the rod I could tell that this was no pike. After a spirited fight a plump 15lb mirror lay in the bottom of the landing net. The fish was in perfect condition, so I made sure that that is how it went back.

Tying on another PVA bag I re-cast to the same spot. It was definitely time for a cup of tea!

Fish were now rolling in the vicinity of my baited swim. The water was beginning to fizz with large patches of bubbles and a series of fish head and shouldered right over where the hook lay. I just knew that the next take was not going to be long in coming.

Seconds later I was away again. This time the fight did not last as long as a smaller fish came struggling to the net. It was even prettier than the first and weighed in at just over 8lb.

With fish now well on the bait further action was inevitable and six more fish were landed in the next two hours. I was fortunate enough to land all of them, despite the fact that the pike were now more active than before. As the day progressed I also began to pick up some better fish.

When small fish are as active as this I really do believe it tends to trigger the bigger ones and at one stage of the session I landed six doubles in a row, the best just falling short of the 20lb barrier at 19lb 8oz.

Towards evening I was joined by my friend Graeme. We decided to share the swim since, by the time he arrived, it was simply alive with fish.

In fact, by the time dusk approached we'd not only run out of bait but out of energy as well! Six more doubles had come to our rods including three nineteens. That's a pretty hectic session by any standards and goes to illustrate how productive fishing in silt can be. Give it a go yourself - and get ready for some action!

● ***Chris' set-up incorporates Tru-Lok kit to keep everything stable but allow mobility***

● ***Graeme with a cracking fish late in the day***

With fish now well on the bait further action was inevitable and six more fish were landed in the next two hours.