

CLOTHING COMPETITION WIN A KORUM THERMAL SUIT

COARSE Fisherman

COARSE
Fisherman

December 2008 £2.95

www.coarsefisherman.co.uk



Buy It Right
>> 13ft Float-Rods



WINTER WINNERS

DEAN BROOK ON BIG
RIVER PIKE & MICK
BROWN ON NEW LURES



• New Barbel Film • Speci Groundbait • The Mad Angler • Get On The Float



Bob Roberts reveals
the story behind...

Barbel Days & Ways



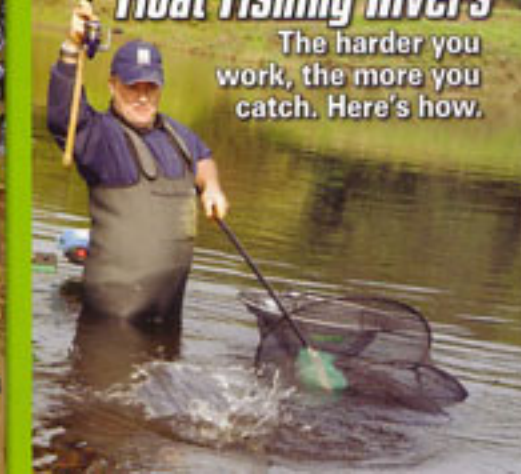
**Groundbait For
Big Barbel?**

Why you should be trying
it this winter.



It's The Pons!

A lake record, big breakfasts
and loads of action.



Float Fishing Rivers

The harder you
work, the more you
catch. Here's how.



36 When The Going Gets Tough!
Mick Brown spins us a line.



22 Give 'Em Some Groundbait
Alan Stagg's experiments pay off!

80 Tales Of The Unexpected ...
Mick Wood

So you have a cunning plan to catch a PB barbel. You think you've got it sussed, eh? This month Mick Wood looks back on strange days that yielded big results. The moral quite simply is: Expect the unexpected.

84 Barbel Questions And Answers

This month it's the turn of Jan Porter. Match star turned specialist, he's caught barbel throughout the UK and maintains a sense of realism.

96 Marsden's Musings

Graham discusses, what, if anything, is the secret to being the best!

62 >>> Competition >>>

KORUM
TACTICAL ANGLING PRODUCTS

Win A Brilliant
Thermal Suit

Here's your chance to win one of five Korum Thermal Suits worth over £100. Designed to keep you warm and dry in the worst of the British weather.

>>> Competition Winners >>>

FOX Competition - October Issue

- Winners:** Neil Rushton, Ryhill, Nr Wakefield
Kevin Gill, Middleton, Manchester
Keith Griffiths, Montgomery, Powys
John Plumb, Kingswinford, West Midlands
Mrs Norma Lancaster, Colnbrook, Slough



42 Quest For Winter Carp
Samantha's pointers for bigger winter carp.

From the Editor



Well, here we are, Yuletide looming quickly into view and I bet you, like me, haven't even thought about Christmas shopping yet!

The reason is simple enough. With most of the leaves now off the trees we are here in prime winter fishing time. I love quick sessions after work, whether it is trying for a zander at my local Frisby pits, or stalking a big River Soar chub.

To be honest, you need carry very little gear with you, other than something to sit on - an unhooking mat will suffice - and a container for your bait and some tackle in a small rucksack.

Chub are definitely the quarry, now that we have had a few cold nights, and in this month's magazine you will find tips on how to catch your share of this wonderful winter species from Yorkshireman Dean Brook and Fen boy Matt Rand.

Chris Ponsford is also back in action with the pen, and it has been a busy old time for 'The Pons', what with a new venue record 30lb-plus carp to his name and plenty of other action, chiefly on the Wye with some magical barbel sport.

Talking of barbel, we have seen the new Bob Roberts and Stu Walker produced Barbel Days and Ways DVD - and there is a full review within these pages.

It really is an eye-opener and for people who are new to fishing I can think of few, if any DVDs, which will trigger the enthusiasm to wet a line in quite the same manner.

We have also had a peak at the new Hugh Miles/Martin Bowler series, Catching The Impossible, which must be on a lot of anglers' Christmas stocking lists. Believe me, it is awesome!

Yes, with winter here all right, we have asked top names such as Mick Brown to delve into his vast knowledge of piking matters, to explain about crank-baits, while Samantha Collins-Radcliffe offers common sense pointers to help you catch winter carp.

With John Bailey writing in his inimitable style, and an enjoyable slice of dry Yorkshire wit from top barbel angler Mick Wood, there is plenty for all our readers to get their teeth into before the new year arrives.

Enjoy the read - enjoy your fishing!

Stu Dexter, Editor

COARSE Fisherman

www.coarsefisherman.co.uk

Managing Editor: Simon Roff
(0116) 2894567 Fax: (0116) 2894889
Simon@conceptdesignltd.co.uk

Editor: Stu Dexter
Tel: (0116) 2894567 Fax: (0116) 2894889

Production:
David Stubble: David@conceptdesignltd.co.uk
Iain Fendery: Iain@conceptdesignltd.co.uk
Becca White: Becca@conceptdesignltd.co.uk
Wayne Hooper: Wayne@conceptdesignltd.co.uk

Sub Editor: Alan Barnes
Advertising:

Jayne Notley - Group Sales Manager
jaynenn@warnersgroup.co.uk (01778) 391189
Ross O'Loughlin - Sales Executive
rosso@warnersgroup.co.uk (01778) 392459

Subscriptions: Colleen Coles
Subs@conceptdesignltd.co.uk (0116) 2894567
£35.40 UK £46.00 Europe £53.00 Outside Europe

Cover Shot:
Dean Brook with a winter river pike

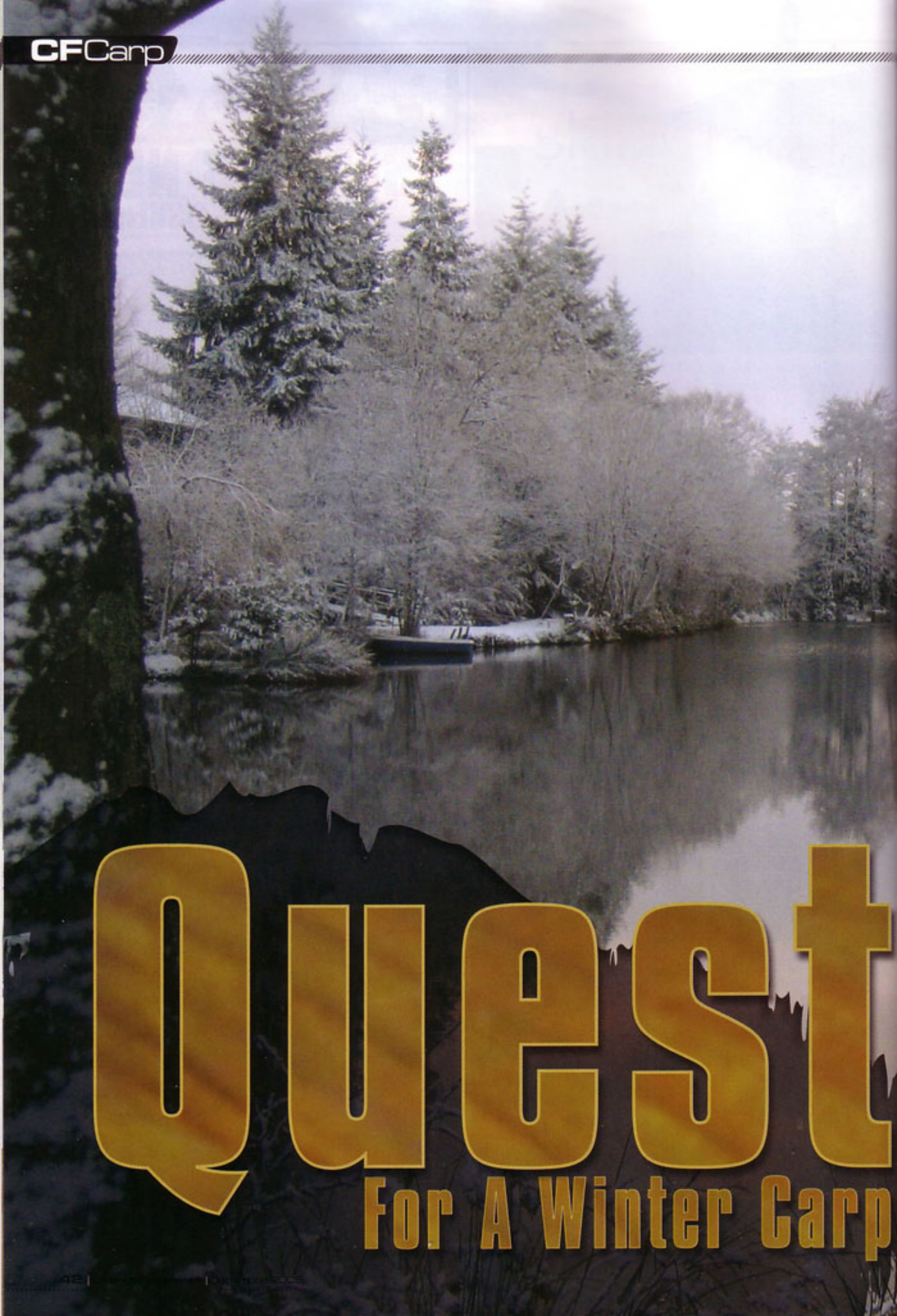
Published by MetroCrest Ltd.
2 Harcourt Way,
Meridian Business Park, Braunstone Town,
Leicester LE19 1WP
Email: info@conceptdesignltd.co.uk

Design © Concept Design
Email: info@conceptdesignltd.co.uk
Tel: (0116) 2894567

Printed By: Warners (Midlands) PLC
Distributed By:
Warners Group Publications PLC
West Street, Bourne, Lincolnshire PE10 9PH

ISSN 0309-8281
© Coarse Fisherman 2008

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form by any means electronic, mechanical, photographic, recording or otherwise, without prior permission of the publishers - that's us! However you can tell your mates how good it is. **Unsolicited Articles:** All articles must be accompanied by a suitable stamped addressed envelope. However, whilst we take great care with all material, we do not accept responsibility for manuscripts and photos, especially those stained with coffee rings, or containing fag burns.



Quest

For A Winter Carp

Are carp a worthy winter target? This month Samantha Collins-Ratcliffe, who has an impressive list of big fish in her angling CV, looks at a few simple pointers that could help you to bank some carp between now and next March.

Catching a winter carp isn't as hard as you think. A bold statement, you may think, but you have to be positive about your angling and if you apply a few basic principles, you will give yourself a good chance of landing one or two.

First things first, I tend to think that if you want a winter carp it is probably a sensible idea to fish a lake that you have fished before, perhaps during the summer months.

You know the lake and, hopefully, some of the fish it can produce, it may even have a good track record of producing during the winter, but if not you shouldn't let it put you off.

Battle Of Wills

Wintertime can be one of the hardest times of the year to catch carp and can sometimes turn out to be more of a battle with yourself and the elements rather than with any carp.

The problem is that the colder conditions slow down the fish's metabolism. In the autumn, carp will try to gain as much weight as possible to help them survive the harsh winter.

As with any cold-blooded animal, low temperatures will slow them down a great deal. As natural food becomes scarcer, the fish tend not to move around so much, therefore preserving their energy.

It can mean the difference between surviving or not.

Find The Fish

For this reason it is important to try to locate the carp before starting to fish. At most venues during the summer the carp give their position away quite easily, either by crashing out of the water, swimming just beneath the surface or by producing clouds of bubbles as they root around the lakebed.

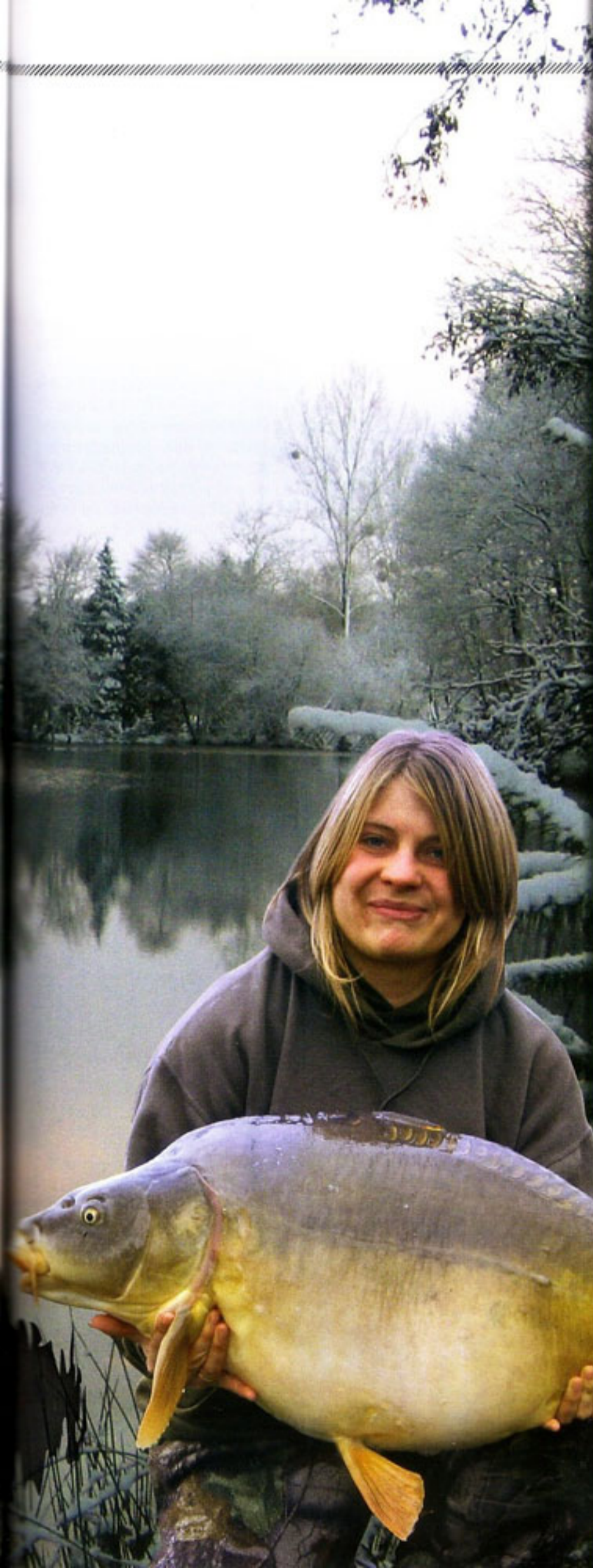
During winter, just like summer, the amount of success will be determined by the stocking level of the venue you choose to fish.

Heavily-stocked day ticket waters still provide a lot of action, even though their feeding pattern will have changed. This is purely down to the amount of fish present.

Another thing you will definitely notice is the increased amount of space you will have to fish.

Not only does the environment change but also the appearance of the carp, the bronze coloured scales of the Common carp become a deeper shade, more defined and seemingly glow against the surroundings.

As commonly known during the summer months, the carp give their position away quite easily, but during the winter things change quite suddenly as most carp will move a lot slower and stay in the same area for longer lengths of time, sometimes not showing themselves at all.



“One method worth considering, especially when you have tried pretty much everything else, is to position just one rod in the deeper area of the lake and one other rod in the margins.”

Cover Your Options

One method worth considering, especially when you have tried pretty much everything else, is to position just one rod in the deeper area of the lake and one other rod in the margins.

There has been many a conversation about how many lines should be in the water? What is the ideal number of rods to use to optimise our chances of catching? Well, I couldn't give the answer to this but am able to offer my opinions.

Fairly often I find myself sitting on the bankside, usually during a long spell without so much as a bleep on the alarms, asking myself these very same questions and then looking at my three rods alongside everybody else's three or four rod set-up.

Surely when there is a maze of lines in any sized lake, but more so in the smaller ones, there has got to be a detrimental effect on

the amount of fish captures.

The carp may not have memories like you and me, but they sure learn quickly and detect danger easily. Therefore, if we perhaps reduce the lines present in our lakes the fish may not be so wary, resulting in more of them finding the hook-baits.

Don't Rule Out The Margins

I have spent some long painful winters watching the margins closely on my local water and can honestly state that carp do visit these areas! They tend to be seen rooting around the dead pads, reeds and other foliage, returning to known summer feeding spots, even if it is in only three foot of icy cold water.

Therefore, if you can locate these spots, which as we all know takes a lot of time and patience, then it is only sensible to use them to our advantage and, hopefully, catch a fish or two for our troubles.

It is crucial that your baiting tactics change during the winter compared to your summer approach. Large quantities of bait can be consumed in the summer with the carp still looking for more.

But if the same tactic is employed during the winter, all you will end up doing is filling up the carp, which may result in them not eating for days. This can spoil both yours and other people's fishing sessions.

Consider The PVA Bag

A favourite method of mine and also of many other people I have had the pleasure to fish with, is to present the bait using the PVA bag method. It can be an absolutely deadly method of catching carp, because it presents a bed of bait you choose to use, with your hook-bait disguised in amongst it.

The rig, if assembled correctly, can be cast long distances or placed carefully within the margins where desired. This presentation stands a chance of being something a carp is not used to in that location, and may give you the edge you need.

Below: Fruity trifle boilies PVA.



I find that, during the winter months, using a smaller bag with a handful of pellets and no more than ten chopped boilies is more than adequate to attract the carp.

I prefer to use the Quest Baits shelf-life boilies all year round, as I have confidence in them just as everybody has their personal preferences.

If you have confidence in something during the other three seasons of the year, why change it during the winter?

And Paste Can Be A Killer

Usually, during the winter months in particular, I find that when pasting up a 15mm hook-bait with a similar high attract paste, I achieve better results than when not doing so.

Paste can sometimes be an overlooked method when on the bank, but is really worth considering. It can produce a high attraction in colder waters with very little nuisance fish around to nibble away at it, therefore hopefully tempting the carp your way.

Again, I don't specifically choose my paste with regards to the weather, but use ones that I am confident with and have, over previous years, had results with.



Spice Up Your Hemp

Another method I tend to find myself using particularly during the winter season is hempseed, the old favourite for many people.

Out of personal preference, I prepare my own at home before a session and like to hot things up a little by adding a few little goodies like salt and chilli.

Fairly often after cooking and cooling the seeds I like to liquidise the mixture into a puree. This produces a mixture quite irresistible for even the most cautious of winter carp and is quite easily spopped out to a marker, thrown out with a baiting spoon or placed accurately within the margins.

Above All Else, Keep Warm

To my mind, one of the most important things about winter fishing is staying warm and comfortable. If you are feeling the cold you can't fish well and spend more time trying to concentrate on staying warm. In the meantime, there could be that obvious clue that is missed, leading to an opportunity going begging.

Fishing in winter is not everyone's



cup of tea but there has to be a great sense of achievement, for those that endure the short chilly days and long freezing nights, when the sound of a screaming run is heard.

Some people are just in the right place at the right time, while others have to work that little bit harder.

You could say it's all about location but then when you think about it there are rigs, bait, strategies and all those other aspects that enter an angler's mind every single cast.

But, in conclusion, winter fishing has both advantages and disadvantages.

If you can recognise both of these and utilise them, you should be well on the way to catching that much sought-after winter carp. **CF**

Fishing in winter is not everyone's cup of tea but there has to be a great sense of achievement, for those that endure the short chilly days and long freezing nights, when the sound of a screaming run is heard.

To find out more about Samantha visit her blog at blog.scrproducts.co.uk