

A brace of "Code Red" 30s

Last weekend I had a day getting my act together by tying and playing with rigs, dusting off the cobwebs and catching a few doubles on one of my runs waters. This weekend I had a visit to a much tougher nut, a water with carp to 40lb.

I arrived Friday morning at 7am to thick fog, in fact I couldn't see the other side of the lake! I had my customary circuit to see who was where and in one particular area I listened to some carp rolling, I could just make out through the fog the ripples that these big carp were making. So that was swim choice sorted now to gear up.

This time of year is not a time for putting in loads of bait, these carp are only just starting to get active after the cold winter months. With this in mind I opted for pva bags and pva stockings, just enough for a bite but not enough to fill them up. Rigs wise on the solid pva bag it was a length of Avids thread n go tungsten tubing to an inline lead with a short 4" Avid pindown hooklink with a Sonubaits 12mm Code Red as hookbait, the bag was filled with 1mm and 2mm Fin perfect pellets and a squirt of Hemp n cheesy garlic oil. The other rig was a 1m helicopter leader of Avid 45lb pindown with a 9" length of 20lb pindown as the hooklink with a snowman of a 12mm Code red and 10mm Action pineapple topper. With the hooklink being of a supple braid its essential to use a pva stocking ball or stick as this will help prevent tangles. The stockings were made up of the same fin perfect pellet mix as went in the solid bags.

As the fog cleared late morning I continued to see Carp rolling at a distance of 70 yds, having plumbed the area on previous visits I knew it to a shallow area of around 5ft and made up of soft silt. I positioned all three rods at the same distance out and fairly tight at 10 yards apart.

I had to wait until 10pm on the Friday for my first take resulting in a stocky 24lb 13oz mirror. This fish came to a solid pva bag. My next take came 12hrs later at 10am Saturday morning, this time on the helicopter set up. This one led me a merry dance in the gin clear water, eventually Ross from the next swim up managed to scoop her up for me. My first thirty of the year at 31lb 11oz. Two hours later the same rod was away again, this one came in with much less drama, in fact I didn't think it was all that big until I saw her width and the familiar scale pattern of one of the lakes "A" team in the shape of Starburst at 35lb 1oz. What a weekend, I'm itching to get back.

