

Roach on the hemp

During my matchfishing days I was very much known as a silver fish angler, with squatt and hemp fishing being a favourite method. Some of my finest performances were with nets of silvers from the canals and rivers.

I still keep in touch with my matchfishing friends who all find it quite ironic that I know fish for big carp and other specimen sized fish.

One of the lakes that I have been targeting for carp this autumn does seem to have a massive head of quality roach, many of the carp anglers are using 20mm boilies to help keep the roach away. Anything smaller and there is every likelihood of a decent roach hanging itself.

If there is good fishing to be had then I want some of it. So with this in mind on a recent carp trip I took along a 3m whip and a few tins of the new Natural hemp by Sonubaits.

With the carp fishing being slow I set up the Preston Innovations Aerotex Whip with a mainline of Reflo power in 0.11 straight through to a size 16 PR 322 hook, float choice when hemp fishing is crucial and for me it the Chianti in a 4 x 10. The rig was set to just off bottom with strung out size 11 stots.

The secret to hemp fishing is in the feeding. If I was pole fishing the catapult would never be out of my hand constantly flicking in just 3 or 4 grains of hemp 3 or 4 times a minute. That may sound like being busy and it is, with hemp fishing you must be feeding all the time. The water column you are fishing must be seeing a constant stream of hemp falling through the water, once it's hit the bottom it is dead.

After 15 minutes of feeding I started to get indications of Roach being present, slight un hittable dips on the float before eventually the first proper bite came along. With this style of fishing its all about feeding and presentation, by laying the rig straight on the surface and letting the bait fall naturally through the water column with the strung out shot the bite will most likely come after the final stot has settled and the hemp hookbait falls its final 6 inches resulting in a sail away bite.

Two hours fishing the whip resulted in a smashing net of roach to 8oz. Often when hemp fishing you will catch a better stamp of fish, which on traditional maggot or punched bread methods you would never know were there. Get on the hemp.

