

CARP-TALK

WEEKLY NEWS FROM THE WORLD OF CARP ANGLING

Week ending 25th January 2003

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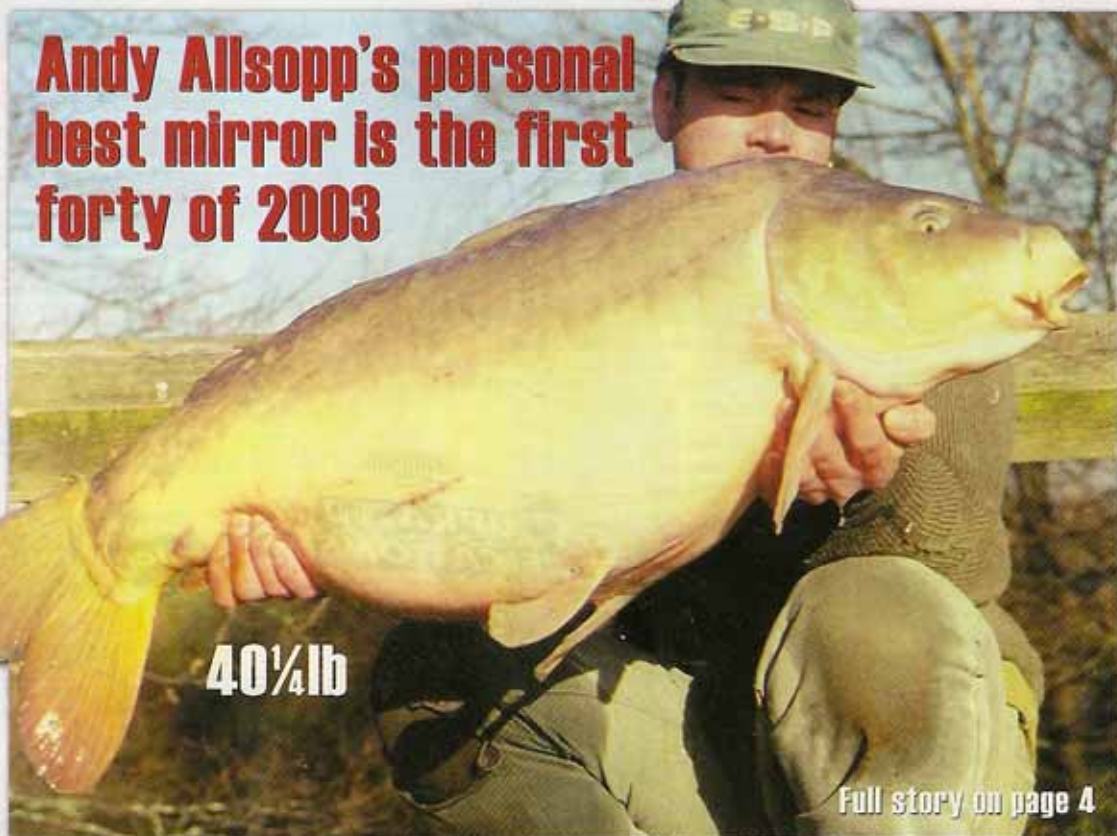
FIRST CLASS!



Andy Allsopp's personal best mirror is the first forty of 2003

A weekend with Hutchy to be won!

Prize draw for junior anglers



new

Absolute beginners...

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Packed full of news, regional round-ups, features, reviews and the biggest competitions

Christmas Competition WINNERS

SHIMANO £1200+

Prize Quiz





A big framed
42½lb near leather

Funny old lot this carp fishing... September saw me travelling down to Forest Angling's Etang des Cornees and what a nightmare journey – 17 hours of purgatory (see *Carp-Talk* 425). However, now it was November and, being a glutton for punishment, I duly accepted the offer from Bob Baker to fish the week after the shut-down of the lake to paying customers. It was planned that I would travel down with Rob King from Hampshire Tackle Exchange, and Bob would go with his son Colin.

Leaving Woking, Surrey, at 5 o'clock on the Saturday morning we were at Dover by 6.30am – no burning lorries, no traffic jams, just plain sailing this time. We met Bob and Colin at the port, and the 7 o'clock sailing was spot on time, no delays, and we were clearing Calais by 8.30am. Soon we were boshing down the A26-E17 to Reims. With just one quick stop for petrol, sweets and fag papers, we were pulling into the Cornees car park at 11.45am... just the job.

We ambled up to the lodge to find Bob and Colin sitting drinking tea – they'd arrived five minutes before us – and Mark and Clair (who are in charge at the venue) were busy making a welcoming cup

of tea for us. Although there had been some good fish out the weather was well and truly on the change, and I thought we were going to be well up against it. It was starting to drizzle by the time we were setting up. Bob and Colin were in Peg nos. 1 and 2, I was in Peg no. 3 and Robin was next to me in no. 4.

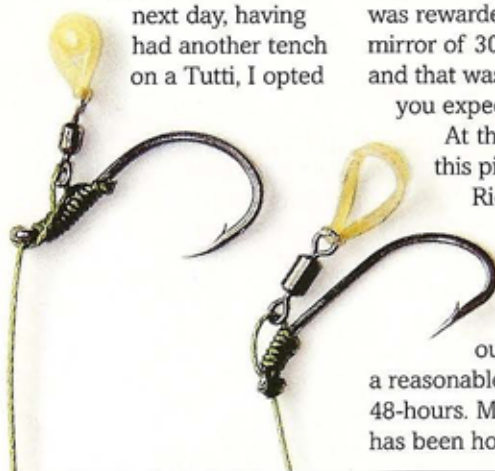
I started off the first night on Tuttis and caught a couple of tench. Mark, however, had a 41½lb on Halibut Pellet, and Arnie had his first ever forty in the shape of a 41½lb. He was

over the moon. The next day, having had another tench on a Tutti, I opted

to change to a Halibut Pellet, and bless it, I soon latched into and landed a 42½lb near leather... just the job. By the third night we had landed three forties and a 39½lb, not bad for winter fishing. The next two fish came in the shape of a 21½lb mirror and a personal best common of 29½lb; needless to say I was well pleased.

By mid-week the weather was horrid, hail storms, rain and high winds. Bivvy-bound conditions for sure. Thursday morning, during a brief respite from the elements, I was rewarded with another mirror of 30lb and ounces, and that was my lot. What do you expect? It's winter!

At the time of writing this piece I am on Richworth-Linear Fisheries' St Johns Pool near Oxford and have just pulled out of what felt like a reasonable fish – one bite in 48-hours. Most of the time it has been howling and hissing



Mark's pellet rig (left) with Owner Cutting Point hook and Stealth Skin left intact – my rig (right) with Incisor hook and a small hinge section created by stripping away a half-inch section of the outer coating – both rigs incorporate a Gardner Tackle Micro Swivel and Bait Band

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down. Winter fishing is all right but roll on the better weather. I can't wait to go back to Cornees and fish for some more big carp. Hang on... the indicator on the right-hand rod has just lifted an inch – I'll hit that.

I did, and it resulted in a 26½-pounder, which saved a blank. Back to Cornees...

When I fished at the venue back in the autumn we were playing with a Skin Rig based around Gardner Tackle's new Stealth Skin. This particular material has two immediate attributes. The first is its supple nature – when it's taken from the spool it's almost memory free, laying flat and dead straight. The other is the inner braid, which is very soft and supple. It's ideal for Combi Rigs, Pinch Rigs and it was these types of rigs that Mark the Bailiff and I sat discussing one night over

a bottle of very good French wine.

With bits and pieces from my tackle box we arrived at what we could only describe as the perfect pellet rig. The only thing we did not totally agree on was the hook pattern; Mark opting for a size 4 eyed Owner Cutting Point (pattern no. 5111-091), whereas I went for a size 8 Long Shank Incisor with a small modification – a small bend was put into the shank 3mm from the eye. The knotless-knot whipping with six turns covered this small bend, and one extra turn was put on prior to a Frank Warwick Micro Rig Swivel being applied and then the tag end passed back through the eye and blobbed off by using a cigarette or lighter. The final touch at the hook end was the use of a Gardner Pellet Band through the swivel.



A personal best common at 29¾lb and a big smile... bless it!

The rig length was measured out at 8-inches from hook bend to the top of the swivel where a loop was tied using a figure-of-eight knot. It's not a pretty rig but my first fish on it was the 39-pounder, and all my fish on this trip came to this rig, so it's working well as far as I am concerned. Mark has landed a 41-pounder and two 39½-pounders on the same rig.

Well, my dears, the week

finished in great style; slashing down with rain... Fish caught were three forties, three 39-pounders, and others of 30lb 2oz, 29¾lb and a 21lb. Not bad for November. Bob and Colin stayed on for another week due to business and during that week Paul the boy landed a new lake record of 50lb 6oz. So there you have it, another successful trip to Etang des Cornees. Be lucky.

Ron Buss

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