

CARP-TALK

WEEKLY NEWS FROM THE WORLD OF CARP ANGLING

Week ending 8th February 2003

Number 443

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Darrin Jones tempts
this cracking common
on bait scrounged
from his friend!



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Oxlease Day-Ticket

Being an avid carp nut of more years than enough, as well as an honorary bailiff on the Richworth-Linear Complex near Stanton Harcourt, Oxfordshire, I am always keeping my eyes on the new waters due to open at this awesome complex. Being thus privileged, I can 'ave a go to assess the potential of a venue before it comes on-line and open to the public.

With this in mind I have been playing on Oxlease Lake, which will be open in March 2003. As you can imagine with the weather being what it has this winter, my time on Oxlease has been limited, but I have managed to catch some carp. Actually, the first fish that fell to my carp trickery was a 21lb-plus linear mirror, a short deep fish that really did give me a great scrap – bless it. This was caught using Richworth Midi Tutti Frutti Freezer Baits in a Gardner Deluxe Fishnet bag – twenty-plus baits in the bag and two on the hair. These, combined with a 3oz lead, were launched into a clear patch roughly 75 yards out. Freebies in the shape of five other bagfuls were also cast to the same patch, giving me six tight bait piles. This, I thought, would be enough attraction in the area to draw a fish in –

“It won't be long before we see this venue hitting the headlines with some super fish over 30lb”

and so it was. Tuttis in winter... what more can I say? They are the dog's whatsits – my favourite.

Returning to the same swim four weeks later, using the same method but with added 8ml Halibut Pellets, I caught my largest fish from Oxlease in the shape of a 23lb 2oz mirror – and, yes, it was one of Simmo's first stock fish from four years ago – luv it.

The original stock of carp, as far as I can gather, were landed up to 28lb. However, three or four years ago it was restocked with some of Simmo's fish. An excellent pedigree. Mark Simmonds certainly knows what he is doing with his stock fish: fast-growing and, for the majority, good-looking. The number stocked was 200 and they are now mostly over 20lb. These fish, coupled with the original stock (which incidentally were the same very pretty strain with which nearby Hunts Corner was stocked), have settled in nicely and are producing some very fine offspring. The future looks rosy.

On 23rd January 2003 a further 330 fish from Mark Simmonds were introduced, bringing the stocking level up to 680 fish plus whatever's bred in there. I should imagine that there are possibly over 1,000 carp of catchable size in Oxlease at the present time. With another stocking in March and yet more fish going in in November, Oxlease is destined to become at least as popular as St Johns.

As far as a runs water is

concerned, once a few more people start fishing the water and a bit more bait goes in, the fish will pile on weight and, like St Johns, it won't be long before we see this venue hitting the headlines with some super fish over 30lb. The water quality, as with the rest of the lakes around here, is excellent. Weed growth is abundant apart from in the centre of the pit, which for



Ron with a nice Oxlease mirror

some reason seems quite barren – but it is here that we have caught most of the fish.

They respond to big beds of pellet and boilies, which is to be expected. There's no reason to go into particle fishing straightaway. I feel that this is a good thing, as fish just do not seem to make and hold weight in particle-only waters. Remember: pellets and boilies make big fish.

My two main ways of fishing this winter have been bags over spodded pellets, and minced boilies stick-fished over pellets. I can't wait until the spring comes as I am sure they will respond to a good food groundbait with a high nutrient liquid food fished on an inline feeder – can't wait to get haulin'. Rigs I have caught on include combi-links using Gardner Stealth Skin, spit-backs, and just plain old simple hook on nylon hair rigs.

This particular fishery will appeal to most anglers, I am

sure, but more importantly to those who are disabled inasmuch as long walks are not required. There are ample parking areas at Oxlease, with a road that runs around 70% of the lake enabling tackle to be dropped off and picked up adjacent to swims. The pitches are large and comfortable and no more than 30 yards from the road. Toilets of the pump-and-dump type are also provided for your convenience. There are other species in Oxlease; some very large perch in excess of 4lb, tench and roach, and a few good pike for those who like to predator fish.

Well if you want some action in March and St Johns is rammo, come on down to Oxlease and enjoy some more of the excellent fishing provided at the Richworth-Linear Fisheries waters in Oxfordshire. Be lucky,

Ron Buss